

NOVEMBER 1995

# CONTACT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
FREE WILL BAPTISTS



Trymon Messer  
(see pages 4-6)

One thing I've learned about God:

He's faithful, but He

takes His time. I believe

I am here... according to His timing.

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**In God's Time**  
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**40 Years in Home  
Missions**  
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**Mama is a Missionary**  
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**The Third Option**  
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**I Never Knew You**  
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**The Singing Landlord**



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## We Need Wisdom

**M**ore than 200 times, the word *wisdom* appears in the Bible. It is a powerful word that drives the saint to God and forms within him those characteristics that change men and mold nations.

The starting place for wisdom is God, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

The search for wisdom is man's most important quest, "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!" (Proverbs 16:16)

The epistle of James challenges us to pray for wisdom and gives a portrait of the kind of wisdom Christians need to demonstrate while facing all life's circumstances.

### Prayer for Wisdom

When praying for wisdom, we need to consider what the term means. The concepts in this word include discretion, intelligence, knowledge, understanding, prudence, judgment, insight and more.

James 1:5 reminds those who recognize that they need wisdom to ask God for it. God gives the wisdom we need to live the way we ought. While we need to ask for wisdom in trials and temptations, there is a wide range of subjects to which wisdom applies.

God gives sufficient wisdom for us to live victoriously in every trial. On the other hand, wisdom does not just drop out of the sky unannounced.

When we need heavenly guidance, it is only a prayer away.

### Portrait of Wisdom

James gives a portrait of wisdom in chapter three. What kind of wisdom do we need and should we pray for?

James identifies two types and thoroughly tests both. There is heavenly

wisdom and hellish wisdom.

Earthly or hellish wisdom is characterized by bitter envying and strife. It produces a fierce, unholy zeal against each other and manifests a spirit of ambition and contention.

This wisdom is noisy, arrogant, boastful and has no humility. The source of this wisdom is this world. It does not come from above. It is earthly, sensual and devilish.

Earthly wisdom produces strife, contention, self-conceit and prompts people to defend their opinions and convictions with over-heated zeal.

Eternal or heavenly wisdom originates with God. It is from above. This wisdom is meek, gentle and needful. The truly wise will always be characterized by a calm spirit, a mild demeanor and a gentle, though firm, enunciation of his sentiments.

The wisdom which originates from above will be pure. The first effect of this wisdom is on the mind and heart. It makes a person upright, sincere, candid and holy.

The wisdom from above will be peaceful. It characterizes those who have the ability to live at peace with others. Peaceable describes the Christian's inner state of mind. Heavenly wisdom brings inner peace to the Christian and gives the ability to live at

peace with others.

Wisdom from above will be persuadable. It is easy to be entreated or compliant. Rather than be stiff, stern, obstinate or unyielding, is easy to persuade.

People operating under divine wisdom can be persuaded to yield when truth requires it. Persuadable people gladly sacrifice their own convenience for the good of others.

Wisdom from above is without partiality. This word does not occur any other place in the New Testament. It means unambiguous, without uncertainty, straightforward. Here it means that in our dealings with others we make no distinction. We are impartial. We are sincere, without a hint of dishonesty, with no facts concealed.

Wisdom from above will be without pretense. It is genuine and sincere without a mask or disguise. What we say we are, we are.

### Perpetuation of Wisdom

We need this wisdom from above. We need to pray for it as we meet together to discuss philosophical differences during our December Leadership Conference. We can state differences, share in discussions and solve our dilemma if we exercise wisdom from above.

We can do that if we focus on three things.

1. Pray for God's wisdom. This means we acknowledge our need of His wisdom.
2. Peruse God's Word. This means we affirm the nature of the wisdom from above.
3. Participate in God's work. This means we accent our nurture of God's wisdom.

The Leadership Conference can be a blessed experience if eternal wisdom rather than earthly wisdom rules our attitudes and actions. Join us for this historic meeting. ■



Melvin Worthington

### The Secretary's Schedule

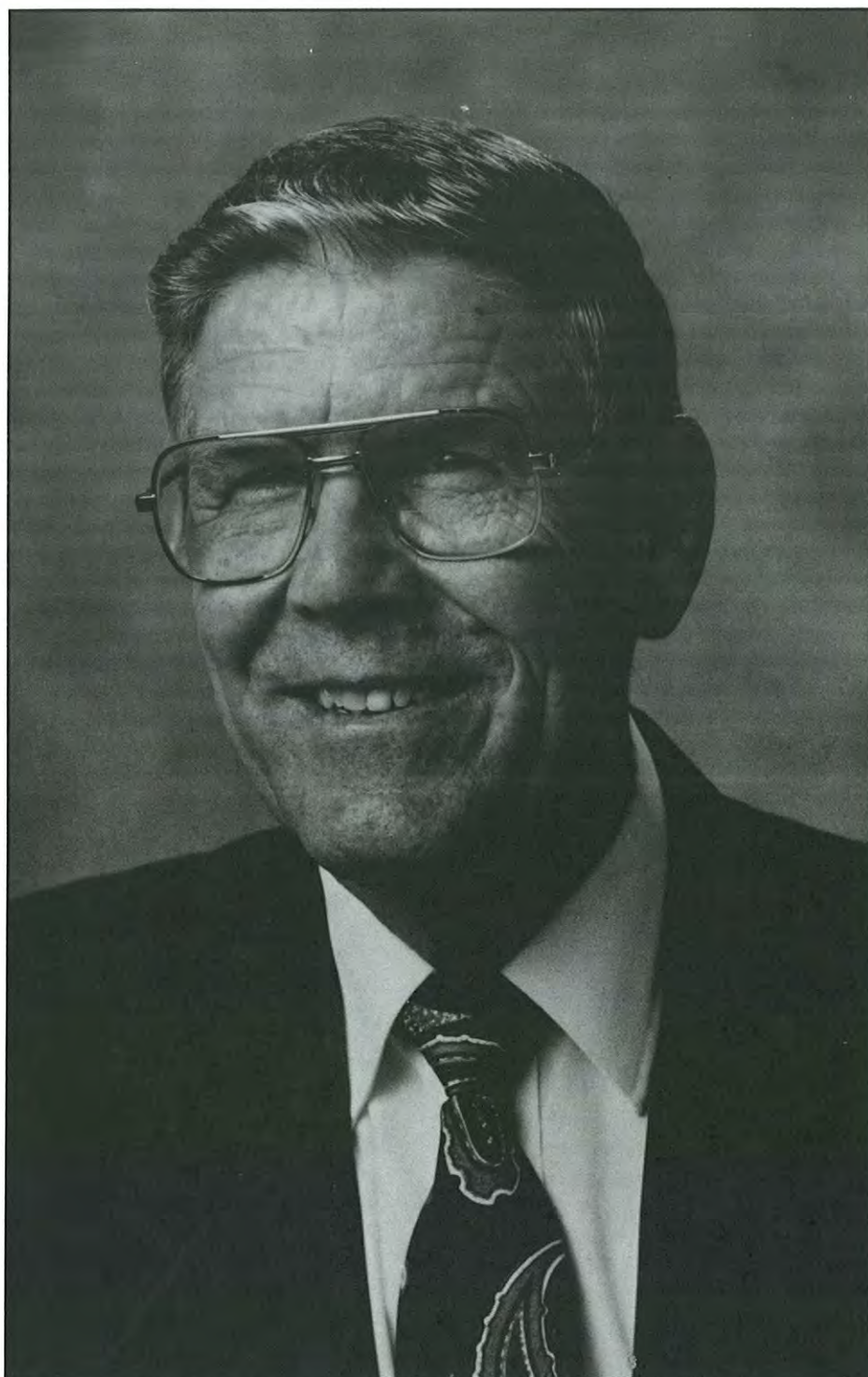
- Nov. 1-2** American Statisticians Association
- Nov. 3-4** Mississippi State Association
- Nov. 8** Ministerial Family Life Committee  
Antioch, TN
- Nov. 9-10** Alabama State Association
- Nov. 13-15** Tennessee State Association
- Nov. 16-18** Georgia State Association
- Nov. 19-22** New Home FWB Church  
Colquitt, Georgia
- Nov. 29-30** CMP Board Meeting



Introducing . . . The New Home Missions Department Director

# In God's Own Time

By Trymon Messer



*Trymon Messer—Director, Home Missions Department*

**S**ome of you probably wonder who I am, where I am going and what you can expect from me as the new general director of Home Missions. You can expect the best I can give under God's leadership.

I'm from a sharecropper's family of 10 kids with three sets of twins, of which I am one. I was taught right from wrong with a good set of values. My mother, a brother and a sister died in a fire at our home when I was 13.

When my older brother left for the Air Force, my twin sister and I quit school to help Dad with the

family. We moved often, so my last year in school was the fifth grade. Although I have no formal education, I believe in education, and thank God for the schools and educated men God has given Free Will Baptists.



## From Korea To Kansas

For three years the U. S. Marine Corps tried to teach me to be dependable, faithful and courageous. After enduring Parris Island, I found myself on the front lines in Korea where I learned that you take care of your brother on the right and your brother on the left—your life could depend on them.

The Marines taught us not to pull back or let down, because our brothers on the right and left were depending on us. In the heat of battle, it didn't matter whether a man was white or black, red or brown—just so he wasn't "yellow."

It didn't matter if he was from up north, down south, back east or out west. We wanted to know if he was on our side. Can we depend upon him?

Once back in West Tennessee, I



married the girl of my dreams—a strong-willed, independent girl named Opal. What a challenge she has been! But by God's grace we've brought out the best in one another.

She has stuck with me for 39 years. God used Opal to help shape my life and ministry. Other than the Lord, she's the best thing that's happened to me.

Opal and I were saved April 14, 1957, in Collinsville, Oklahoma, where I was ordained as a deacon. We moved from Tulsa to Salina, Kansas, to help our pastor, Brother J. R. Shade, start a new church.

The Lord then led Brother Shade to minister elsewhere, and the young church asked me to be their pastor. Since we could not find a pastor, I consented to keep us together and try to lead us until God sent somebody. Even though I was not an ordained minister (and still am not), I pastored the church 11½ years.

So, there you have it. You have a general director without education or ordination, though I strongly believe in both.

### Things I Have Learned

Now, where am I taking the department? As far and as fast as God leads and our people will support. I am 62 years old, so whatever difference I make will have to be done quickly.

One thing I've learned about God—He's faithful, but He takes His time. I believe I am here in this position according to His timing.

God has let me live, walk and serve with some great men who powerfully influenced my life. I was saved in Oklahoma. That's a good state with people who love the Lord. They are strong Free Will Baptists zealous for our doctrine.

It's true that they don't mind a good scrap now and then, but remember, Oklahoma was the last frontier. It is my spiritual home state and I love those folks.

I've also been in the homes and preached in the churches of some great men all across this country who love God and have strong convictions. They have built large churches and have a sincere concern about our standards. These men are among the best friends I have.

But God isolated me in a place

called Kansas where I spent 14½ years. Out there on those flat plains you can see, not only farther, but more clearly.

It's a place where the nearest Free Will Baptist was 100 miles away. When you did meet up with a Free Will Baptist brother, you were just glad to see him. The fellowship was sweet because he was one of ours.

So, you're going to be one of those who runs with everybody? Nope! I plan to be me. I feel that we should live as godly as we can and be as fruitful as we can.

I've leaned on Romans 14:4 as it relates to my brother, "... to his own master he standeth or falleth. ..."

### Parris Island Theology

As a U. S. Marine recruit in the early 1950's, I rode a bus into Beaufort, South Carolina, and met men from all sections of the country. We waited there for others to arrive. What a sight!

Some of us stepped right out of West Tennessee cotton patches wearing work shoes. Others unloaded from the hollows of West Virginia and Kentucky. They came sporting duck tails and leather jackets from the Bronx in New York.

Some arrived from Boston wearing three-piece suits and talking funny, constantly combing their much-prized hairstyles. Texans showed up with cowboy boots and hats.

Some read comic books, some girlie books. Some chewed gum, others tobacco. Some acted tough. Some of us were scared, others hardened from street gangs.

Some started calling us "Rebs" and made fun of us. We started calling them "Yankees." It looked like there was going to be a riot for sure.

### But The Man In Charge . . .

Old Sarge walked in. We learned he was our drill instructor. If you've never met a Marine D. I., you don't know what tough is. Did he take charge!

The first thing I heard was, "Knock it off!" It sounded like thunder. *Knock who?*

"Attention." *Attend what?*

"Fall in." *Fall where?*

I didn't understand any of it. But I learned. He began to yell, "Move it!

*Move it!"*

One tough guy's shirt was open to his belt (He was the one with the greased duck tail.) He got up slowly and said, "Cool it, Sarge."

What happened next you wouldn't believe. That D. I. yanked him up, tore the sleeves off his jacket, the collar off his shirt, took the girlie book from him and beat him about the head and face; then rearranged his hair, stuck that book in his mouth and made him keep it there for two hours until we got to Parris Island.

### What Confusion We Cause

He finally got us into four lines and yelled, "Forward, March!" Some started moving; others stood still while they walked over us.

He yelled, "Halt!" By that time, those who stood still realized that "Forward march" meant move.

But when he yelled, "Halt," they stopped and we walked over them. What confusion! By this time, people standing on the street watching started laughing at all of us.

That D. I. was furious. He snatched a rolled-up newspaper, ran in among us and started yelling and beating us. He eventually got us lined up again.

He looked up to Heaven and said, "Why me, God? What have I done to deserve this? This is the sloppiest, sorriest bunch of nothing I've ever seen. You expect me to make men out of this bunch of nothing?"

He regained his composure and looked at us. "All right, you bunch of jar heads. Listen to me. You belong to me. For the next 90 days, you're mine. I'm your mommy and your daddy. I am your god.

"You cannot get off this snake-infested island. You cannot get out. You're mine! I've got 90 days to make men out of you. Some of you will not make it. You're too weak. You can't take it."

He was right. Several got mental discharges (including my buddy who talked me into joining).

"Some of you will die right here," he said. Again, he was right—three were killed accidentally.

"But you who do make it will be men. Not just men, Marines."

My mind always goes back to this incident when I think of what God is trying to make of us. →



## *We've Got to Make it Together*

The D. I. continued, "You are gonna live together, eat together, sleep together and get along. You are a unit. From now on, when one of you goofs up, you all are gonna suffer. You are a unit."

The next day they stripped us down, shaved our heads and issued our clothes. Caps hung down over our ears. Everything they gave us was too long and too big. Pants legs dragged, jacket sleeves hung to our knees.

Everything was the same color. We lost our identity and dignity. My, were we humbled.

### *Personal Lesson I Learned*

We did a lot of marching. He called some of us plow boys. He yelled, "Tennessee, kick that plow boy in front of you."

I hated to do that, because when we turned the other way, he would yell, "Kick that plow boy in front of you."

We spent a lot of time kicking one another.

I slowly learned. I learned, "Trymon, keep your eyes on your own steps; you're responsible for your own walk. Walk straight and walk right."

Those were the longest, hardest 90 days of my life.

### *The Finished Product*

The last day came, our final test. We had to march past the grandstand where the base commander and other dignitaries waited to approve us and other platoons. That morning we were up early—shoes shined, uniforms spotless, rifles polished.

Old Sarge said, "All right, troops. This is it. This is the day we've worked for and waited for. Look sharp. Heads back, chests out. Every man in a straight line, walk abreast. Forward march!"

As the band played, we marched onto the parade field. Old Sarge marched beside us talking softly, "That's it. Dress up. Look sharp. You are looking good. Snap those heels."

When we approached the grandstand, Sarge moved up and took his place in front of us. I looked ahead and saw a perfect line . . . three men abreast—perfect! The music played quietly as Sarge called out, "Eyes right. Salute."

All you could hear was shoe leather on pavement; all in perfect unison. We passed on by, off into the grass. "Halt. At rest."

Sarge walked back beside us. "Men, you were good. No. Not just men, you're Marines."

In a broken voice as he looked off at the grandstand, "You're the best group I've ever brought through."

Glory, we made it! That's what I want for us as a denomination. I want to make it pass that great Grandstand and hear Jesus say, "Well done."

But don't forget, we are a unit. We must stick together and work together. Let's stop kicking and discouraging one another. Our time is short. Our work is eternal. Our Lord is watching. We have a job to do. Let's get it done. ■

.....  
ABOUT THE WRITER: Mr. Trymon Messer served 17 years as associate director with the Home Missions Department. He began his duties as general director on September 1.

## *Life can be more than my way or no way*

# The Third Option

By R. F. Smith, Jr.

It's an old story, it's true, and continues to happen on playgrounds and backyards wherever and whenever children gather to play.

There is discussion; no, make that argument, about how the game is to be played. One group (or child) wants the game to proceed according to his rules; another has different ideas. And the fuss is on.

Finally, someone declares: "I'll just take my ball and bat and go home." And does.

It's the old game of "rule or ruin."

It is the posture of life that says, "I will rule the roost or ruin the roost; I will run the show or cancel the show; we play by my ego-centered perspectives or we destroy."

Jesus saw this in His day. "It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates, 'We piped to you and you did not dance, we wailed and you did not mourn.'"

And we see this same scenario transpiring within the stained glass sanctuaries of churches, in the hallowed halls of governments, in the paneled rooms of governing boards of institutions, and all too often in the carpeted dens of homes.

It is expression of the ancient lie we tell ourselves: to achieve my goals I must either rule or ruin those who rule.

But "rule or ruin" are not our only two options. There is a third option: *cooperate*.

We can effectively cooperate, even with people whose views differ from ours. Our nation, and to a large measure the free churches of our nation, have become great precisely because they have exercised option three: *cooperation*.

Cooperation is not spelled *c-a-p-i-t-u-l-a-t-i-o-n*. It is not surrender of cherished dreams but rather participation in common hopes so that our dreams do not become nightmares.

Cooperation is not spelled *c-o-m-p-r-o-m-i-s-e*, as many suspect and suspicion, although compromise on "things that make no difference" often makes the difference in achieving major goals by surrendering minor points.

Our world (church, community, government, institutions) is either eroded or enriched by the option we choose: *rule or ruin or cooperate*. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. R. F. Smith, Jr. is senior minister at Fifth Avenue Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia.



How God used pain and suffering to teach.

## God Taught Me To Be Thankful

By Wade Jernigan

A bit of personal verse introduces this subject:

Why should I be thankful/when I come to God in prayer,  
is the question that I ponder/as I linger with Him there.  
Then my mind is made to wander/as my thoughts are made to roam  
when I start to reminiscing/of my church, my God, my home.

Far removed from family and friends (in a somewhat hostile land), those words formed and framed in my heart and mind at a long-ago Thanksgiving. That night the complete poem was an intricate part of the Thanksgiving service in the Free Will Baptist church at Jerome, Idaho.

That was not the beginning of thanksgiving for me but may well have been the start of *thanks-living*.

That Thanksgiving season the local newspaper asked the Free Will Baptist pastor (me!) to write an article on "Thanksliving." It became a journey down memory lane with events long filed unfolding and with every unfolding came reasons for Thanksgiving. Everything related to "my church, my God, my home."

Thanksgiving lessons came early and often in my life. God used serious illness and excruciating pain that prevented many activities. My folks called in a doctor to alleviate the situation.

As the doctor administered shots and other medicines, Dad prayed. Putting his hands on his second son, he sought God's healing. Healing came. Not once in the 62 years since has the condition reappeared.

For three years in the late 1930's, malaria took its toll on me. No strength. Sluggishness. Stunted growth. It became apparent that regular malaria medicines could not break the chills and fevers.

Finally, the doctor prescribed a medicine saying, "If this does not bring a cure, then there is no hope." A cure came.

As an 18-year-old freshman at Free Will Baptist Bible College, I chose faith over fretting in what could have become a serious problem. When the gums fell away from my teeth, a physician prescribed penicillin, a relatively new drug at the time. When the dosage was exhausted, there was no change.

After much prayer, I devised a homemade remedy. Kerosene and salt along with other country medicines mixed with prayer had brought cures through childhood. Would they still work if rightly applied with prayer?

Laugh if you must, but I filled a snuff can with salt and saturated it with kerosene (coal oil). Before beginning the primitive application, I prayed this prayer, "Lord, I believe I can do better preaching with my natural teeth. Please, if You will, heal my gums and save my teeth."

Some readers may find the whole idea ridiculous, but not this preacher. After several weeks of regular brushing with the concoction, my gums firmed. A cure had come. That was one time when I "anointed with oil [albeit coal oil] and prayed."

Staph infection is a dreaded disease; many die after contracting it, others are left permanently scarred. Though I

was not in the hospital where it is normally contracted, a serious staph infection struck.

No manual labor. Precautions had to be taken. Activities curtailed. But preaching continued. I could not wear boots or shoes. Indian moccasins became my only footwear.

God was sought again, and again He came through. About the time the healing was affected, a pastorate opened. We moved.

Soon after arriving at the new church, we learned that a young boy in the congregation had died of the same infection. Then it came home, *Wade, you could have died*. God was still teaching.

Space will not permit telling of the 45 days spent in ICU and isolation at Community Hospital in Fresno, California. Family members were called in, funeral services arranged.

Doctors said there was no way I could live. They were wrong again. God intervened. *At the time of this incident, word came from around the world in three days, "Tell Wade we are praying."*

More recently six blockages, five by-passes and a pigtail repeated the lesson in Thanksgiving. God taught me to be thankful.

God taught thankfulness not only in cures but in conversion, calling, conditions, controversy, calamities, conflicts and causes. He taught by Spirit, scriptures, sermons, sayings and songs. Once when I was near despair, He sent these words, "Time is your ally, and truth is your friend."

While experiencing conflict of soul, God's Spirit prompted, "I'll work it all out for you."

During another time of great personal concern, calm came when these words moved into my mind: "All is well, Lord, all is well. I've been to Calvary with Christ my Lord. All is well, Lord, all is well."

A song of thanksgiving finally came. A portion of it follows.

I'm thankful to Jesus, my Lord and my King.

I'm thankful to Jesus, my Lord.

I'm thankful to Jesus, my Lord and my King,  
and with Him I am in accord.

And so it is. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Wade T. Jernigan is a Free Will Baptist evangelist who resides in Lexington, Oklahoma.



40  
Years  
in  
Home  
Missions

## What a Grand Adventure!

**W**hat an exciting adventure I've had in home missions work for over 40 years. I would not trade these past four decades of serving the Lord in the Free Will Baptist denomination for anything, not even for the highest office in the land as president of the United States.

God saved me the last Sunday night in December 1951 at the only Free Will Baptist church in the state of Idaho, at Buhl. Three weeks after my conversion I went overseas and spent a year on an Air Force base with no chapel, no chaplain and no religious services of any kind. However, I was equipped with a *Thompson Chain Reference Bible*, the *Free Will Baptist Treatise* and six Chuck Wagon Gang gospel records. I had all I needed.

That year I spent hours upon hours studying those two great books and listening to my favorite gospel songs. It was actually overseas, without the help of a chaplain or pastor, that I became a staunch believer in Free Will Baptist doctrines and practices. In a foreign land without the aid of a church or pastor, I developed a philosophy of separated holy living, ag-

gressive soul winning and vigorous church planting.

### New Mexico Years

After returning to the United States, I was stationed at Walker Air Force Base in Roswell, New Mexico. I could not believe it when I learned there was not a Free Will Baptist church in the entire state of New Mexico. I realized I had to find some kind of church to attend, so I began a street by street search of the city. I could not find one gospel-preaching church like the Free Will Baptist church back home in Idaho.

In the meantime, I had answered God's call to preach during the Christmas season of 1953. Shortly afterward, someone sent me a copy of *Contact* magazine. In it was an article about a Free Will Baptist church starting in Hobbs, New Mexico, by Rev. L. C.

Pinson. This was good news to me.

The following weekend I went to Hobbs and found that church. It became my church, and I was happy to drive 116 miles from Roswell to Hobbs every weekend to get to attend services.

One Sunday night a beautiful young lady named Pat King came to church to play the piano for services. She was a gifted pianist, but needed a personal experience with the Lord. The next Sunday she came forward when I gave the invitation and accepted Christ as her Savior.

Five weeks from the Sunday night I met her, we were married. I knew a good thing when I saw it, and I wasn't about to let her get away.

The fact that Pat and I were converted in the only Free Will Baptist churches in our respective states gave us a burden for the many cities where our denomination had no churches. While living in Roswell, I had met a Free Will Baptist family living in Artesia, a town 45 miles away. This family, along with Pat and me, agreed to start a Free Will Baptist church in Artesia.

We found an abandoned laundromat building which we rented for \$10 per month. We put an ad in the news-



paper announcing the revival which we began the following Sunday after Pat and I were married. The ad cost us \$5, making a total of \$15 on expenditures. So for an investment of \$7.50 each we started the second Free Will Baptist church in New Mexico.

We began with eight people. After two weeks of preaching, we organized the church with eight people—his family and mine. I am thankful we didn't lose anyone during the revival.

### Bible College Training

When I was discharged from the Air Force, we moved to Artesia. I served as a tentmaker missionary, pastoring the new church while working as an automobile mechanic for my livelihood. Although souls were saved and the church grew rapidly to about 100 in attendance, I felt an intense need for Bible and pastoral training. After working two years as a tentmaker, I learned that I could attend Free Will Baptist Bible College and receive financial assistance from the G. I. Bill.

With mixed emotions, I resigned the church in Artesia, and the congregation called another pastor. One of the men in Artesia signed a note for me to borrow \$750, and so Pat and I, with our baby daughter Patsy, headed for Nashville.

During my college years, I worked as a tentmaker pastor to help several churches get started or develop from mission churches to congregations with full-time programs. My freshman year I preached at a Free Will Baptist church two Sundays a month and a Methodist church the other two Sundays.

My sophomore year I served as a tentmaker pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Springfield, Tennessee, and worked part time as a Bible salesman to earn my livelihood. My junior and senior years I pastored Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church. That was when our son Mark was born.

### Colorado Home Missionary

Soon after graduation I received a letter from Dr. Homer Willis, general director of the Home Missions Department. The letter said that I had been approved as a home missionary to Denver, Colorado. I had heard there were 38 people in Denver asking for someone to start a church, so I was

really excited about the prospects.

We began itinerate in the fall of 1960, and arrived in Denver on February 10, 1961. When I asked for the names of those 38 people, the office had no record of them. This was a disappointment to us, so we had to start from scratch.

We found out that there were over one million people in the Denver area, and thousands upon thousands were lost. After a few weeks of extensive door knocking and visitation, 48 people attended our first service on March 6, 1961.

The church purchased an existing church building (which I don't recommend) at the corner of Arkansas and Vine streets in Denver. Souls were saved in almost every service. The church became self-supporting May 1, 1963, just over two years from the time we arrived in Denver.

It was a thrill for me to stand before the 1963 National Association, thank them for their support and tell them we didn't need it any longer. I was elected to the National Home Missions Board at that convention. The following year I became chairman of the board.

### The Nashville Years

After serving almost two terms on the board, I came to the December 1970 meeting and learned that Rev. Bob Shockey had resigned as field secretary of the Home Missions Department. The board voted for me to assume that position; the title was later changed to associate director.

With mixed emotions, I left the church in Denver. I loved Colorado and the congregation, but I concluded that this was an opportunity to challenge our denomination about the need for new churches. I would also have opportunity to persuade men to be home missionaries. I felt that more churches could be started by influencing others to go into home missions work.

I served under Brother Willis and Brother Shockey for seven and a half years. Brother Willis asked Pat to come to work in the office as publications editor and secretary. She has faithfully served for 24 years. Brother Willis and Brother Shockey were good to my family and excellent to work with.

Brother Shockey became ill and

submitted his resignation as general director at the May 1978 board meeting. The board asked me to be the general director, and I have joyfully served in that position since that time.

### Looking Ahead

My goal when I came to Nashville was to see financial gifts for home missions increase so that our missionaries could be adequately supported. I have seen the home missions budget rise from \$183,000 the first year to \$2.7 million. Every missionary is paid a livable salary, and all have received their checks every month.

I had a desire to provide more help for church planters. The joint project, associate missionary, tentmaker, Aquila and Priscilla program, Church Extension Loan Fund, missionary builder and other programs were developed to help missionaries start churches and get into buildings more quickly.

As the result of these programs, our missionaries have established 210 Free Will Baptist churches since I have been in Nashville.

I served as general director until September 1, 1995. I will continue in an advisory capacity until December 31, 1995. Pat and I plan to move back to our beloved Colorado. Although we won't be on salary from the Home Missions Board, we plan to work with our home missionaries, especially those in isolated places in the West, to inspire and encourage them in the great work they are doing.

I intend to preach the gospel, serve our Lord Jesus Christ, home missions, and the Free Will Baptist denomination until the Lord takes me home. Yes, these past 40 years have truly been a grand adventure. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Roy Thomas served 25 years as general director and associate director of the Home Missions Department.



# Mama is a Missionary!

By Patsy Gwartney

**M**y mama is a missionary! Webster's dictionary defines a missionary as a "person commissioned by a religious organization to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work." My mother was commissioned as a Free Will Baptist home missionary in 1960. But commissioned or not, Mama has always had a mission.

Over the years, Mama's mission has changed a hundred times. But one thing has not changed—whatever Mama's mission, she lets nothing stand in her way until she can say, "Mission accomplished!"

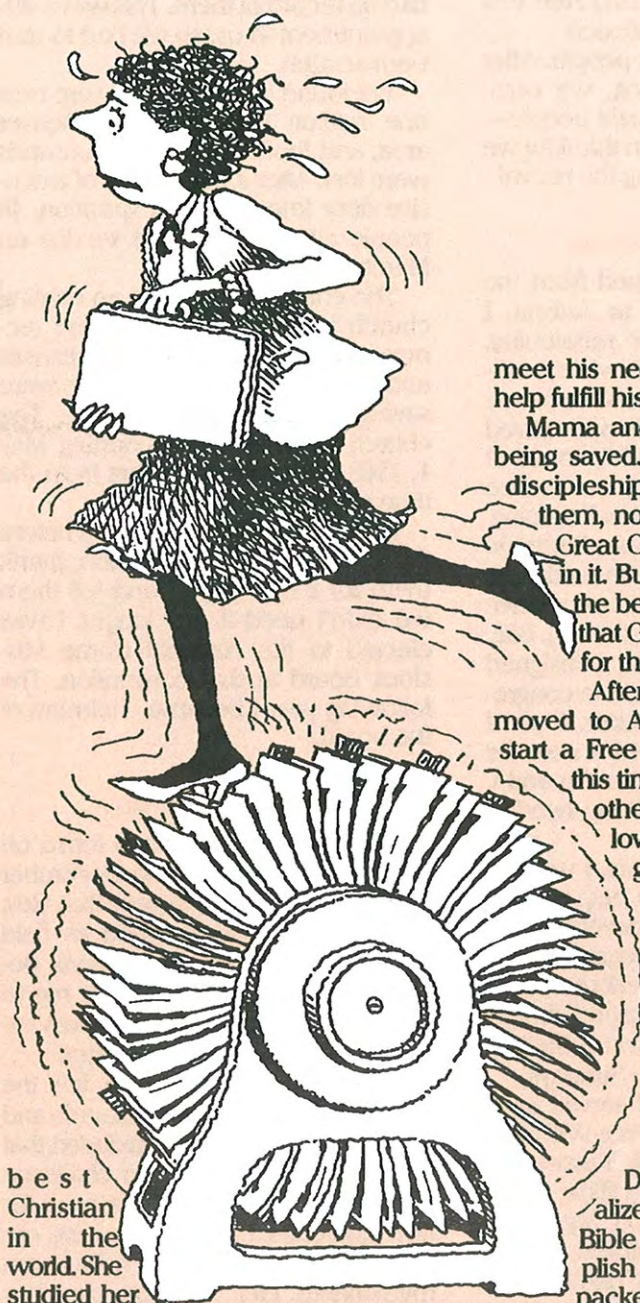
## Girl From Hobbs

When Mama was 17 years old, she lived in Hobbs, New Mexico. One Sunday, the piano player for the Free Will Baptist church became ill and a piano player was needed for the Sunday evening service. Someone in the church knew that mama played, so in desperation, they called on her to play for service that night.

A young preacher by the name of Roy Thomas was stationed at the Air Force base in Roswell, New Mexico. He had been driving over to Hobbs each weekend to attend services at the Free Will Baptist church. He was scheduled to preach that night.

His preaching made my mama so angry. Her mission was to prove this young man wrong. She had grown up in church, but had never heard the things this young man was saying. After a few weeks of attending services and studying the Bible with this young preacher, Mama was gloriously saved.

She hit the ground running. Now, Mama's mission was to become the



best Christian in the world. She studied her

Bible voraciously. She wanted all her friends and family to know the Savior to Whom she had given her life.

Mama soon took on another mission. She fell in love with the young preacher who had made her so angry the first time she heard him preach. She married him and added yet another mission to her life. Her mission was to love this one man with all her heart. For the past 40 years, she has worked tirelessly to study this man,

meet his needs and do her best to help fulfill his mission in life.

Mama and Daddy never got over being saved. There were no special discipleship classes available to them, no special teaching on the Great Commission and our part in it. But my parents knew from the beginning of their marriage that God had a special mission for their lives to accomplish.

After seeking God's will, they moved to Artesia, New Mexico, to start a Free Will Baptist church. By this time, Mama had added another mission to her life, to love the daughter God had given them and teach her to love God with all her heart. Mama brought me home from the hospital to a barracks building. They rented it to hold services each week, but we also lived there.

## College Bound

Daddy and Mother soon realized that they would need Bible college training to accomplish their mission, so they packed their possessions and their baby into the car and moved to Nashville, Tennessee. So another mission was added to Mother's life—to make sure she and Daddy graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College.

To accomplish this mission, Mama cleaned houses, ironed clothes and gave piano lessons to almost every Free Will Baptist kid in middle Tennessee. Within four years, her mission was accomplished. But what a price Mama had to pay. After attending Bible



college for a year, Mama found out she was expecting another baby.

The fourth month into her pregnancy, she became very ill. The doctor told her she would have to stay in bed for the rest of her pregnancy to insure that the baby would live. So Mama sacrificially gave up her college education in order to bring another Free Will Baptist preacher (my brother) into the world. She encouraged Daddy not to quit, but to finish college.

### Decade in Denver

In 1960, Daddy and Mother were commissioned as Free Will Baptist home missionaries to Denver, Colorado. This was their new mission. At that time, there were few Free Will Baptist churches in the West. They were pioneers for Christ and could not wait to do what God had called them to do.

We spent 10 wonderful years in Denver working to build a church. During this time, I watched Mama take on mission after mission. Mama didn't have time to be depressed about our lack of finances or feel sorry for herself because she lived far from family and close friends. She had a mission.

Mama is one of the most talented and versatile people I know. She never let lack of funds or bad circumstances defeat her. As a pastor's wife, she supervised the Sunday School curriculum, making sure all the materials were filed in order and were well preserved to be used another time.

She conducted Christmas programs and wrote and directed children's and teen plays (she even painted the scenery!). She taught the choir to read music, directed Vacation Bible School, Good News Clubs and Church Training Service.

She also cleaned the church building and made sure everything looked attractive for visitors who came to hear Daddy preach. When Daddy would want to have a Sunday School campaign or try something new to draw a crowd to hear God's Word preached, Mama would make visual aids and whatever flyers or brochures were needed.

Mama loved all the members of our congregation, even those who were difficult to love. She developed a burden for people who were lost and became quite a personal soul winner.

She encouraged Daddy when the work would get hard. When the building contractor ran off with all the money from our bond program, Mama encouraged Daddy to stay with the church, and not get discouraged and leave.

### Raising God's Kids

Mama also had a mission to raise her children to be strong servants for the Lord. When she was young, she created her own plan of rearing children. Of course, her guidebook was the Bible. Mama wanted us to develop in every area of our lives.

Mama helped us develop physically by cooking well-balanced meals (I never could understand how she could feed us and eight or 10 church members with so few resources.) Mama bought a juicing machine one year and poured every kind of fruit and vegetable juice God has created down our throats.

Mama helped us develop mentally by reading books to us constantly. Once we could read, she would take us to the public library. She has earned hundreds of "A's" on school reports, and we got the credit! She taught us to love good music, especially gospel music. Socially, Mama taught us to never make fun of anyone and to always have good manners.

Most of all, Mama helped us develop spiritually. Mama was a constant testimony of Deuteronomy 6:7, "... that thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Mama didn't just teach us what the Bible said. She taught us to apply God's Word to our lives. She taught us to have character, to always do right regardless of whether it was popular or easy.

### Music City Mission

In 1970, we moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Daddy began working for the Home Missions Department. Mama jumped into this new mission with full force. Mama has a deep love for home missions and each mission family involved. She taught herself to use the computer and after many years of working in the Home Missions office became publications edi-

tor for the department.

Through the years, Mama has done extensive research on the history of Free Will Baptists. Another mission she has taken is to inform Free Will Baptists of the rich heritage we have. She has thoroughly studied the lives of men such as Benjamin Randall and David Marks.

Her desire is to instill in Free Will Baptists a deep loyalty for the sacrifice and dedication of our founding fathers. Her mission is to do her best to see that Free Will Baptists stay true to the teachings and the philosophies of these early pioneers.

Mama has spoken in churches across the country regarding the woman's role in the home and in the church. She has preached Titus 2:3-5 to hundreds of ladies, teaching them to love their husbands, keep clean houses, rear their children for full-time Christian service and use every ability God has given them to win souls to Christ.

She has loved the spouses of her children as if they were her own flesh and blood. She has spent hours teaching her grandchildren the truths she taught my brother and me. Even though Mama had several miscarriages and major surgeries, she has not let bad health defeat her. Mama never had time to be depressed. She had a mission to fulfill.

Mama, Mrs. Pat Thomas, retired from the Home Missions Department in September. I wonder what her next mission will be. I just hope I get caught in the whirlwind she will create. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Patsy Gwartney is a member of East Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Mesa, Arizona, where she and her husband serve as home missionaries.



## Working in the National Offices

# What's It Like?

By Mrs. Pat Thomas

**D**ecember 1970—That's when Roy and I agreed to leave Denver, Colorado, where we had served a mission church for 10 years and move to Nashville, Tennessee, to work with the Home Missions Department. When we arrived in Nashville, I worked for the Executive Office a few months and then for the CTS Department a few months. Then on January 2, 1973, Dr. Homer Willis, Home Missions general director, hired me as a secretary and publications editor for the department.

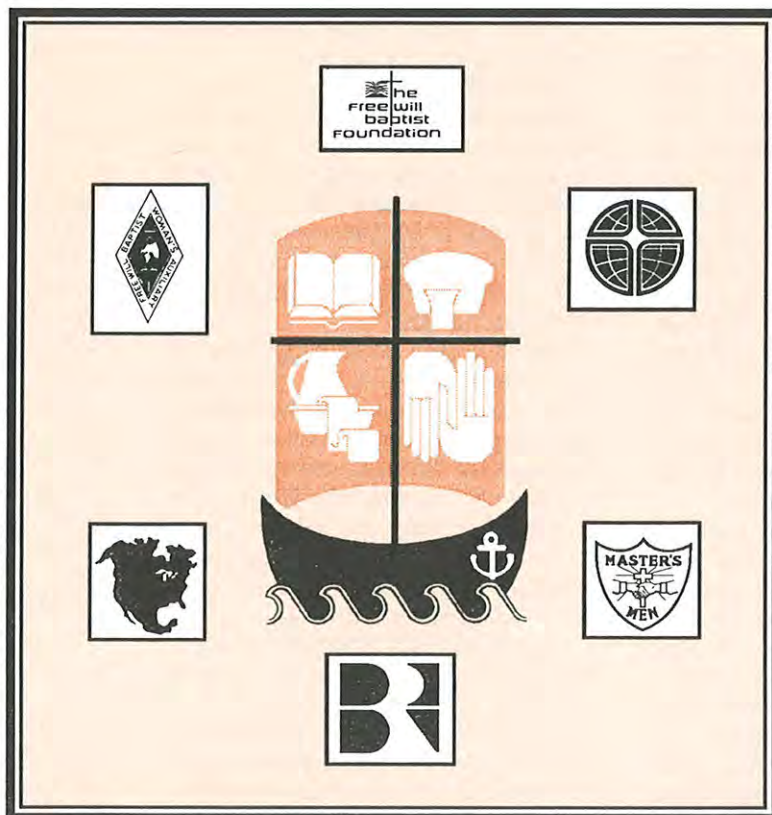
### Happy Work

I can truly say that my work in the National Offices building has been a happy work. My office was not always an ideal place to work. In the old National Offices building located on Murfreesboro Road in Nashville, I worked in a "cubbyhole" located behind some bookcases.

No heat, air conditioning or even a window made my office comfortable, so I "burned up in the summer and froze in the winter." This is one reason I am grateful for our new National Offices building where we all have of-

fices with heat and air.

However, the work itself has been a joy for me. As publications editor for Home Missions, I could hardly wait each month to read the missionaries' newsletters and prepare them for mailing. We spent countless evenings with staff workers at the National Offices at "stuffing parties." At these events we joked, laughed and stuffed permit mailings for hours. Even though we were not paid for overtime, we felt this was necessary in order to get mailings to the post office. We knew this would make things easier for the soldiers on the front lines—the missionaries. I will never forget these precious, wonderful years we spent as staff workers.



Times of prayer have been precious to me. Many times the entire staff dropped all work and gathered in Roy's office for a time of prayer because newsletters from missionaries brought special needs to our attention. These same prayer times were observed in every department.

Some of my favorite times were when pastors visited the National Offices

and brought church groups with them. During those times we rolled out the red carpet, for these were important people who deserved royal treatment. After all, these people were in reality our bosses, the ones who paid the bills and kept the work going.

I was proud to show pastors and laymen through the building, explain the color scheme and explain how volunteer workers did much of the labor. I especially took pride in showing them the Home Missions conference room where the oil painting of Benjamin Randall hangs along with pictures of some of the early pioneers in Home Missions.

With each new missionary couple we sent out, I always shed a few tears and prayed, "Lord, please bless their



efforts, use them to win many souls, and help them to build a strong soul-winning church." I felt as if I were going back to the field through them.

### Hard Work

The work load grew in the office, and I began to work from 40 to 50 hours each week editing Home Missions publications, doing secretarial work, and traveling when I could with Roy.

How exciting it has been to watch the work grow, add new missionaries, expand the department into evangelism and church growth ministries, and add staff members to help carry the work load. It's been just as exciting to watch the work of the other departments grow.

However, all this has meant many hours of labor. Working with publications necessitates long hours and a lot of overtime. Since Home Missions prints over 130 publications, I had no choice but to work late in the evenings and on Saturdays in order to get the work done.

What amazed me was that I was never alone in the National Offices building, whether working late in the evenings or on Saturdays. There were always other workers in other departments doing the same thing.

Bookkeepers in Foreign Missions worked long, tedious overtime hours in order to get the work done. Don Robirds and Jack Williams also put in thousands of overtime hours in their work with *Contact* magazine, *Heartbeat* and other publications.

I jokingly told them many times, "Either the three of us have more to do than anyone else in the building, or we are the three slowest."

### Harmonious Work

Every Wednesday morning personnel from all the departments gather in the main conference room for prayer, scripture reading and preaching or Bible study. We pray for our home and foreign missionaries, for lost people, for other departments, our colleges, churches, pastors and our denomination.

Through the years I came to appreciate the people who work in the National Offices for their dedication to the Lord and to Free Will Baptists.

I appreciate the National Offices personnel for their dedication and faithfulness to their local churches. I know for a fact that these are reliable, faithful people who support their churches and pray for their pastors. They are faithful witnesses for the Lord, and many of them have been used of the Lord to win people to Christ.

I also have come to appreciate the National Offices personnel for their willingness to sacrifice financially to see the work go forward. Many of the workers, when realizing their departments did not have money to furnish the new building, got home equity loans or borrowed money from banks to help pay for office furniture.

Each department considers the others part of the family. If one department runs out of materials, it can

borrow from another. If one department needs help with a project, the others step in to assist. Through the years I witnessed harmonious working relationships like I have never seen anywhere else.

Even though the National Offices building is made up of men and women of many different backgrounds with differing theological views, in 25 years I saw only love, consideration and cooperation from the workers in every department.

I never witnessed unchristian or unkind behavior. I am proud to have been associated with them, and pray that this same spirit of cooperation and love can permeate our entire denomination.

It has been a joy to work in such an atmosphere with the National Offices personnel. I will miss working there, and will treasure the years spent there.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Pat Thomas served 23 years as publications editor for the Home Missions Department.

## BEYOND BELIEF



IT WAS A QUOTE FROM MARTIN LUTHER "SIN BOLDLY, CONFESS FREELY" AND MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS LIFE AND TIMES. IT'S BASICALLY AN ADMONITION TO TRUST IN GOD'S GRACE.



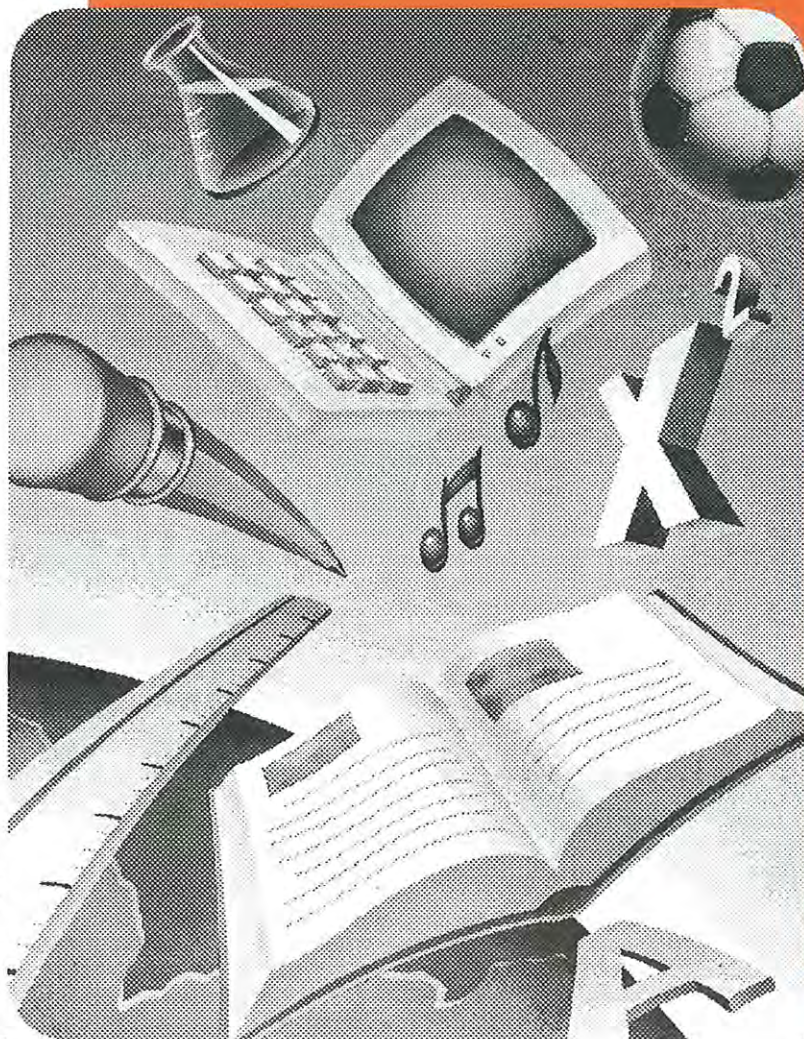
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Three ways to change our world.

## How to Influence the World

By Larry D. Hampton



**J**esus commanded His followers to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). We all agree that this life-changing message is desperately needed by our world. The question is, "What is the best way to fulfill our Lord's commission in the shortest amount of time?"

The answer is simple and one we agree on: Every believer should be involved in world evangelization. But what exactly does that mean? Wherever you are, tell the old, old story. Pray for those God calls to foreign mission services. Help pay the costs they incur in doing God's will for their lives.

Oh, yes. Keep your options open. Always be willing to relocate here or abroad if the Lord of the harvest should so direct. In other words, regard yourself as a full-time Christian worker no matter who pays your salary.

### The Command

If the answer is so simple, why are there still so many unbelievers in the world after all this time? Because we

haven't all been involved in world evangelization. Don't get me wrong; we've talked about it. You might say the problem is we've talked a good fight while all the time we have been pacifists.

To our shame, half the world has never heard of Jesus Christ. Many who have heard the gospel have rejected it. Man does have a free will, you know. So what's the answer?

I don't believe we will ever take the Great Commission seriously until we take the Great Command seriously. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with

all your mind. This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37).

Frankly, our priorities are out of kilter.

If the church is to influence the world for Jesus Christ, we must go into the world rather than expecting it to come to the church. Day to day as believers work at their

jobs, they have opportunity to witness for Christ as they

serve Him by discharging their duties with excellence.

Such diligence will not go unnoticed by the Lord, fellow workers or a supervisor. It may well be your work habits that provide an opening for you to share your testimony. Recalling that it is the Lord you really work for will certainly lend greater credibility to your testimony.

### Education

While all work is honorable, I believe there are two areas that Christian col-



leges should flood with graduates. The first one is the field of education. We need believers teaching at every level—pre-kindergarten to post-graduate.

One well-known Christian college has the goal to turn out world class scholars in every major field that they offer. (Imagine what a difference it would have made in our country if dedicated Christians had been teaching in all of the departments of our major universities in the 1960s.)

Not only will these graduates be qualified to teach at colleges and universities, they will be equipped to write the textbooks used in our high schools. That's how you influence the world.

Even if you can't openly teach the Bible and pray in public school classrooms, you can live a holy life that brings glory to God and demonstrates to your students how they should live. Wouldn't it be better to have Christians quietly living godly lives before the youth of America than to have unbelievers quietly (or not so quietly) living ungodly lives before them?

And while we're talking about education, Christians should be serving on school boards across the nation. What right do we have to complain about what our schools have become if we aren't willing to work to change them?

### The Media

The other field Christians should invade is the media. Christians should prepare themselves to write for mag-

azines. They should develop editorial skills so they are qualified to edit newspapers. Believers should enter the television industry as writers, editors, producers and directors.

Why emphasize involvement in the media? The answer is obvious. The influence of media is pervasive, permeating all of society. Consider the differences it would make if the producer of the network news was a Bible-believing Christian.

I'm not suggesting that he would cover an event in the Middle East and proclaim that it points to the Lord's return. I am suggesting that his faith would influence the stories covered and the manner in which they were covered.

I believe the awful things that are passed off on the American public by the media are not as much the evidence of a sinister plot to destroy the moral fabric of our society as they are the reflection of the beliefs held by those in charge in Hollywood and New York.

And what's more, they are so out of touch with reality, they honestly believe their beliefs are shared by most Americans. For instance, they rarely if ever go to church, so they can't imagine that there are actually people who attend church regularly.

Maybe you think I am dreaming to think a Christian could land a job in the major media. I believe that an individual who has the ability and hones his skills can work within the media and make a difference.

Perhaps you have heard of Cal

Thomas. Or Michael Medved. While Medved is not a Christian, he is very conservative. Although he is Jewish, he shares many of our concerns about the media. His success suggests that a person with conservative views, if he has ability and is willing to work hard, can rise to the top even in the liberal-dominated media.

We have been commissioned to influence society, to be salt and light. Whether you are a forklift operator or a political cartoonist with the *Chicago Tribune*, your job affords you one of the most effective ways available to you to accomplish this assignment.

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men . . . for you serve the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24). ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Hampton serves as director of financial development for the Nashville Union Mission in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church.



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Losing can be fun. Really!

# I Love to Lose

By Carol Reid



**M**aybe we were typical Free Will Baptists—enjoying food and fellowship wherever possible. Our WNAC group had published two cookbooks, and we all enjoyed swapping recipes and trying new restaurants. The all-you-can-eat Mexican buffet often fed several of our church members.

So no wonder over the years the pounds crept on some of us.

Oh, we did the diet swaps too—but never with much determination as the recipe ideas. My experience with diets was that after a month or so, I gained back any I had lost and usually a few pounds more!

We were ready to get serious. My friend Connie told me about her church's diet class. They had a detailed diet plan, recipe book, daily journal, scripture memorization and such to motivate them in their weight loss. But Connie admitted she had fallen off the wagon and was back as heavy as ever.

We have several nurses in our church. So we talked about making up our own sessions—kind of a “round

robin” class leader approach with weight loss hints and regular weigh-ins for accountability—and no fees.

But Bobby's daughter had clipped an advertisement for Weigh Down Workshop for him almost a year earlier. He and his wife were convinced this was the way we should go.

I was not. You see, it was too simple. You didn't have a “diet plan.” You didn't even call it a “diet.” You ate only when you were hungry. I told them, “I'd be eating all the time! I'm always hungry!”

The program depended on self-control and discipline. I told them, “If I had self-control and discipline, I wouldn't be this fat to start with!” But Bobby and the introductory Weigh Down Workshop video convinced us.

Then the Holy Spirit convinced us—and convicted us. I was quickly reminded that gluttony and drunkenness are often paired in the scripture—and both are sin. I reviewed that one of the fruits of the Spirit is *self-control*—if I allow the Lord to dictate my choices. I learned the difference between head hunger (eating because I was stressed or bored or lonesome or depressed or happy or tired or, well, I could go on and on) and stomach hunger. We begin to deliberately replace our head hunger with a hunger and thirst for righteousness—a real hunger for God's Word and God's help in our lives.

We met weekly and weighed for accountability. We listened to audiotapes through the week and watched the videotapes at our meetings. But we also shared what God was teaching us about focusing on Him, depending on His help.

Our key to weight loss was/is obedi-



ence—not to some diet plan, fat gram count or exchange list, but to Him. This was obedience not just with food, but in our families and jobs and speed limits and everything we do. We were not just tricking the scales or manipulating the food, but surrendering all we have and are to Jesus—daily.

The results? Bobby and Cleto have lost over 50 pounds each. Yvonne—over 34. Jill—47. Debbie—37. Vicky—25. And me?

43! The least I've weighed in 14 years.

And we're all still *in process*. Our first 12-week session with 12 members began in September 1994. The second session, with 20 members, began in January 1995. The third session in April 1995.

Not everyone has lost. Not everyone has stayed with us. But we have had victories and encouragement enough to keep on.

I am convinced that two things have helped me succeed in this program when I failed often in other programs. First, I was able to eat the same food that my family ate—no separate preparations, no starving, no weighing, no measuring, no counting, no martyrdom. You can be sure that my portions have become smaller than they were before, but no food is forbidden.

Secondly, I have had a great support system. My husband and children are

always encouraging. My mother and grandmother prayed for us to be successful. And the other Weigh Down Workshop participants have been great.

My sister-in-law Jill, my friend Debbie and I have battled together. Vicky encourages me at work, often with a scripture verse from her morning devotions. We pray for one another in our group—not just for the battles over food, but for many other things as well.

And God gives victory. I know that I Corinthians says, "God gives the increase."

I'm here to testify, "God gives the decrease too!"

I'm so grateful that His power, His grace, His loving hand reaches to little short fat women like me to help me be more like Him. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Carol Reid is librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

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# I Never Knew You

By Dennis E. Hensley



**T**he familiar passage in Matthew 7:21-23 speaks about people who will be turned away from the kingdom of Heaven. Jesus predicted that certain folks would demand entrance into Heaven based on the fact that they claimed to have had a relationship with God.

Jesus explained, however, that only people who had been redeemed through a personal salvation experience with Christ would be admitted into Heaven. He noted that many people would be shocked when they were turned away from Heaven's gate.

A few years ago some people in Georgia discovered just how much of a shock this really was going to be.

One summer when President George Bush was in the White House, he and his wife took a short vacation on St. Simon's Island. The President and Mrs. Bush had honeymooned at this Georgia resort area in 1945 and now wanted to go back again.

Arrangements were made for them to stay at a five star hotel. They arrived with a full entourage of reporters, secretaries, administrative aids, chauffeurs and, of course, Secret Service agents.

Mrs. Barbara Bush asked if the quaint little historic Christ's Church was still in operation on the island. She was told that it had not missed a Sunday service in more than 225 years.

John and Charles Wesley had visited the island when it was a colonial outpost, and they had preached under trees that still stood on the church grounds. The original stained glass windows were brought from Germany and installed before the Civil War. In the early 1900s Louis Comfort Tiffany had created a stained glass window

for this church. This news delighted the First Lady. She decided that she and the President would worship there next Sunday.

When word got out throughout the community on the island that the President and First Lady would be in attendance at Christ's Church on Sunday, literally hundreds of residents decided to attend that service, too.

Sunday, when Secret Service agents arrived early to secure the church for the President's safety, they found sidewalks, garden areas and yards overrun with people waiting for the church doors to open so they could rush inside.

The security agents were dumbfounded. There was no way they could search all these people, much less run clearance checks on them. But who knew what sort of cranks or misfits might be mingling with legitimate local citizens? It was a security nightmare, and agents could think of no way to cope with it.

Time drew near for the President's limousine to arrive. Something had to be done, and fast!

The chief of security dashed to the pastor's office and led him by the arm to the front door.

"Okay, here's what we're going to do," the agent announced. "We're going to unlock the door and have you step outside onto the porch. You will scan the crowd. Whenever you see the faces of people you recognize as faithful members of this church—the folks who show up every week—you will point out those people to my men. We'll then escort those folks through the crowd and bring them inside the church."

The pastor couldn't help but smile. Oh, my, this was going to be interesting.

The two men walked out. One by one, faces were acknowledged by the pastor.

"Yes, those folks are the Johnsons,"

he said. "Bring them inside. Oh, and there are the Smiths and the O'Brians and the Winslows. Let them in, too. And over there . . . those folks are the Vanderkemps . . . and back there I see the McMillans and their children. . . ."

As the pastor identified the members, hundreds of other people called out, "Here! Look here! I've been a resident on this island for years! Choose me! Choose me!"

But the pastor, with a regretful shrug of his shoulders, only responded, "I'm sorry. I can't ever remember seeing you before. I'm afraid I have to say, 'No.'"

It didn't take long for the tiny church to fill. President and Mrs. Bush arrived and were brought in the back way. All doors and windows were then locked tightly. Bodyguards stood at each entrance, barring admission to anyone not previously chosen.

"Hey! We want to go inside, too," people called out. "Open the doors. Let us in."

The bodyguards remained immovable. And the doors behind them stayed locked.

A week later, these words from Jesus were printed on the back of the Christ's Church bulletin:

Not everyone who saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; only he who doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me.

— Matthew 7:21-23



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Dr. Dennis E. Hensley is the author of 28 books, including *The Jesus Effect* (Pacific Press) and *How to Stop Living for the Applause* (Servant Publishers).



# FREE WILL BAPTIST NEWSFRONT

## Fletcher Named to Editorial Post

NASHVILLE, TN—Illinois native Keith Fletcher has been named editor-in-chief at Randall House Publications, according to Alton Loveless, general director. Reverend Fletcher (36) began his new duties September 20. He succeeds Dr. Malcolm Fry who will retire in December.

In addition to editorial responsibilities at Randall House, Fletcher will also manage the graphic arts division.

"This merging of editorial and art will facilitate a complete visual overhaul of our curriculum, improving quality and attractiveness," says Dr. Loveless.

For the past four years, Mr. Fletcher has edited the young teen Sunday School curriculum at Scripture Press Publications in Wheaton, Illinois. The company expanded his role to include editing denominational versions of curriculum for all ages.

Keith was heavily involved in the changeover of Scripture Press' editorial department to a Macintosh-based desktop publishing network. This experience prepared him to oversee the upgrade of Randall House's Macintosh computers.

The Fletchers moved to Chicago



go in 1991 to help home missionary David Potete launch Northwest FWB Church on Chicago's northwest side. He then landed the editorial position with Scripture Press.

The foundation for Keith's Christian education background began in his home church, First FWB Church in Johnston City, Illinois. He was saved as a child during Vacation Bible School. He participated in the church's CTS program, worked in the bus ministry and music program, and answered the call to full-time Christian service during youth camp.

In 1981, Keith graduated *magna*

*cum laude* from Free Will Baptist Bible College. He was ordained to the ministry by Illinois' South Central District.

Brother Fletcher has served as pastor, associate pastor and youth minister in Illinois, Indiana, Oklahoma and North Carolina. He married Sarah Blades in 1980. They have three children—Aaron (13), Jesse (11) and Hannah (7).

In 1989, Keith and Sarah entered the area of curriculum development while Keith served as camp manager at Camp Hope in Ewing, Illinois. The Fletchers were asked to help develop and write the first quarters of *Turning Point*, Randall Houses's Sunday School series for junior high students.

While he leads the graphics overhaul at Randall House in his new role, Brother Fletcher is committed to maintaining the curriculum's strong Bible-base and Free Will Baptist distinctives. He plans to add sound educational methodology and more teacher helps.

"We hope to provide Free Will Baptists with Sunday School and Church Training Service materials that are second to none," Fletcher said.

## FWB Foundation Delivers Gifts

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation delivered more than \$38,000 in endowment gifts to various Free Will Baptist ministries on July 24, according to William Evans, executive secretary. The gifts came from funds managed by the Foundation.

The following gifts were for the January-June 1995 time period:

Foreign Missions	\$15,277.76
The Together Way	2,005.00
Free Will Baptist Bible College	4,407.23
Home Missions	4,110.35
Board of Retirement	5,088.36
Free Will Baptist Foundation	301.50
Contact	66.00
Women Nationally Active for Christ	415.65
Hillsdale FWB College	749.34
Tennessee Home for Children	269.35
State and Local Ministries	6,225.08
Total	\$38,915.62

Endowments are permanent gifts invested so that income is available for ministry. These gifts continue to give year after year.

The Foundation can manage endowments for any Free Will Baptist agency—national, state, district or local. For information about endowments, write or call the Foundation.



## Bible College Enrolls 346 for Fall Semester

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 346 students from 26 states, one U.S. possession and seven foreign countries, according to statistics compiled by Charles E. Hampton, registrar.

The following enrollment, by states, was reported:

Alabama .....	28	Indiana .....	11	Ohio .....	17	Washington .....	1
Arkansas .....	14	Kentucky .....	17	Oklahoma .....	2	West Virginia .....	3
California .....	1	Michigan .....	3	Pennsylvania .....	1	U. S. Virgin Islands .....	1
Colorado .....	2	Mississippi .....	10	South Carolina .....	13	Foreign .....	16
Delaware .....	2	Missouri .....	19	South Dakota .....	1	Brazil (2), Canada (8), France (1), Korea	
Florida .....	14	Nebraska .....	2	Tennessee .....	66	(1), Panama (2), Romania (1), Spain (1)	
Georgia .....	18	New York .....	2	Texas .....	3		
Illinois .....	39	North Carolina .....	25	Virginia .....	15		

Dr. Hampton noted that several states made significant increases in student representation at FWBCC—notably Missouri (up 10), Illinois (up 6), Kentucky and

Ohio (up 5 each), and South Carolina (up 4). These are the kinds of trends that are very encouraging.

## Mexican National Association Meets in Monterrey

MONTERREY, MX—The 35th annual Mexican National Association met near Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, at the Free Will Baptist camp property on August 3-6. Some 500 delegates and visitors attended. The highlight of the meeting was the preaching by pastors Jose Rendon of Mexico City, Raul Gonzalez of Reynosa, Evangelist Wade Jernigan of Oklahoma, and Howard Munsey, special Home Missions representative for Mexico, from Tennessee.

Music for the convention was directed by Pastor Hilarino Gonzalez. Talented musicians came from all over Mexico. A group of 18 young people, all playing string instruments, came from one of the newest churches in Mexico located in Tampico, Tamaulipas. They formed an "estudiantina" and practiced six hours per week for months to prepare for the National Association.

Business sessions began Thursday morning with the Executive Committee meeting led by Executive Secretary Lazaro de la Rosa. Reports were heard from the national youth conference president and the national women's auxiliary convention.

Missionary Coordinator James Munsey reported on his activities and on the Seminary of the Cross. The seminary expects a record number of students next semester. Rev. John McClure presented a letter of resignation from the Mexican National Association of Free Will Baptists presumably to work with another group.

The general business session began Friday afternoon. Almost all 36 churches and missions were represented by letter and their delegates were officially seated. Reports were heard by the national treasurer and the Executive Committee. Business concluded

Saturday morning.

Pastors and delegates enjoyed the fellowship so much that next year the convention will start a day earlier so that business can be concluded and leave more time for fellowship and preaching. The 1996 convention will meet July 31-August 4.

The National Youth Camp, led by youth president Felix Zuniga, preceded the week of the National Association. Rev. Thomas Marberry from Hillsdale FWB College was the camp conference speaker for the 110 campers.

Special visitors from the United States included seven young ladies from Harris Memorial FWB Church in Greeneville, Tennessee, accompanied by Pastor Ken Smith, a group of 10 youth from Tulsa area FWB churches led by Ruth Bivens, and a group of 10 college students from Hillsdale FWB College who accompanied Brother Marberry.

## Hillsdale Reports Large Freshman Class

MOORE, OK—The largest freshman class in 17 years arrived on the Hillsdale FWB College campus in August. Eighty-two freshmen showed up, making the 1995 group the largest since 1978 when 86 freshmen enrolled.

School officials reported 39 ministerial students, also an increase over recent years.

A total of 142 students, not including night and late enrollments, gave Hillsdale its largest enrollment in three years.

The student body includes 89 men and 53 women from Oklahoma (108), Missouri (13), Arkansas (6), Texas (6) and nine other states.



## CCC Opens Fall Semester

FRESNO, CA—California Christian College began the fall semester with 33 full-time students and two part-time students, according to Greg McAllister, academic dean. The college will use the 1995-1996 academic year to develop various business programs, McAllister said.

The school spent most of the 1994-95 year preparing for a review by the California Council for Private Post-secondary and Vocational Education (CPPVE) for reapproval as a degree-granting institution.

The college has been reapproved and has added two new programs to its list of degrees the school now offers:

- Associate of Arts in Bible and Christian Ministry
- Associate of Arts in Sacred Music
- Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Theology
- Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry.

## Southeastern Enrollment Up 20%

WENDELL, NC—Fall enrollment at Southeastern FWB College rose to 128 students from 16 states. This marks a 20% increase over the 1994 fall semester and a 40% increase over two years ago.

The semester began with a three-day campus revival featuring Kentucky pastor Tim York. Officials said, "Many young people responded seeking God's direction for their lives. Others surrendered for full-time service."

Enrollment includes 116 full-time students and 12 part-time students. Ninety-two students live on campus—47 men and 45 women. The school reported 62 new students.

Southeastern also operates an external studies department that includes 78 students.

The on-campus students are enrolled in numerous programs of study: Elementary Education—27; Bible/Pastoral Theology—19; Bible/Pastoral Theology/Missions—15; Music Education—14; and others.

**P r a y**  
**for the**  
**1995**  
**Leadership**  
**Conference**  
**December 4-6**  
**Maxwell House Hotel**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**



**Capital Stewardship/Victory Campaign**  
**August 1995**  
**Update**

State	Goal	Gifts	Balance
Alabama	\$ 76,397.63	\$ 4,981.15	\$ 71,416.48
Arizona	1,228.93	2,883.71	(1,654.78)
Arkansas	76,860.94	42,647.13	34,213.81
Atlantic Canada	1,570.51	897.00	673.51
California	17,216.76	1,444.20	15,772.56
Colorado	789.18	1,165.00	(375.82)
Florida	20,703.30	6,347.42	14,355.88
Georgia	38,179.19	28,523.88	9,655.31
Hawaii	184.54	727.26	(542.72)
Idaho	353.37	25.00	328.37
Illinois	16,176.29	4,949.47	11,226.82
Indiana	7,868.27	1,846.75	6,021.52
Iowa	266.99	0.00	266.99
Kansas	1,287.82	280.00	1,007.82
Kentucky	35,454.34	5,409.29	30,045.05
Louisiana	94.23	1,925.00	(1,830.77)
Maryland	6,812.10	1,539.38	5,272.72
Michigan	15,116.19	16,004.22	(888.03)
Mississippi	15,559.86	3,843.23	11,716.63
Missouri	60,484.40	33,789.91	26,694.49
Montana	27.48	100.00	(72.52)
Nebraska	102.08	119.00	(16.92)
New Mexico	596.80	630.55	(33.75)
North Carolina	59,118.06	7,131.40	51,986.66
Northeast Assoc.	883.41	270.00	613.41
Northwest Assoc.	1,087.58	201.00	886.58
Ohio	40,923.66	19,563.10	21,360.56
Oklahoma	92,271.60	10,259.08	82,012.52
South Carolina	18,335.75	2,102.00	16,233.75
South Dakota		175.00	(175.00)
Tennessee	78,557.09	56,439.54	22,117.55
Texas	11,547.20	6,973.52	4,573.68
Virginia	24,323.33	2,027.93	22,295.40
Virgin Islands		200.00	(200.00)
West Virginia	46,204.51	998.00	45,206.51
Wisconsin		61.00	(61.00)
Other		2,978.85	(2,978.85)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$766,583.39</b>	<b>\$269,458.97</b>	<b>\$497,124.42</b>



**August 1995**

**RECEIPTS:**

State	Design.	CO-OP	Total	August '94	Yr. To Date
Alabama	\$ 7,045.60	\$ .00	\$ 7,045.60	\$ 8,303.19	\$ 75,864.43
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	2,937.53
Arkansas	14,722.78	8,164.92	22,887.70	27,664.18	230,704.05
California	.00	962.08	962.08	937.42	5,816.81
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	1,200.79	1,200.79	730.17	19,296.91
Georgia	14,838.22	4,464.25	19,302.47	10,187.33	121,803.37
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	7,171.11	2,604.47	9,775.58	7,732.85	97,195.39
Indiana	.00	.00	.00	759.68	6,222.68
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	40.00
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	359.95
Kentucky	446.77	322.63	769.40	274.85	5,719.09
Louisiana	10.00	10.00	20.00	20.00	90.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	95.00	2,102.87
Michigan	17,799.66	2,027.98	19,827.64	15,282.59	113,293.77
Mississippi	60.00	465.34	525.34	403.16	4,139.73
Missouri	12,353.58	.00	12,353.58	11,946.36	95,935.35
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	271.19	30.61	301.80	25.45	3,248.50
North Carolina	410.14	300.00	710.14	2,417.98	14,377.54
Ohio	5,120.52	5,396.90	10,517.42	20.00	69,550.71
Oklahoma	44,003.36	.00	44,003.36	37,243.95	416,658.67
South Carolina	22,568.89	101.15	22,670.04	18,873.23	188,100.24
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	4,787.02	1,211.90	5,998.92	10,431.54	68,559.07
Texas	6,466.18	286.18	6,752.36	3,612.69	71,738.71
Virginia	845.41	25.00	870.41	1,004.54	9,609.09
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	4,285.53	94.08	4,379.61	3,826.40	40,917.13
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	114.29
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	(.03)	(.03)	.13	.05
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$163,205.96</b>	<b>\$27,668.25</b>	<b>\$190,874.21</b>	<b>\$161,792.69</b>	<b>\$1,664,395.93</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS:**

Executive Office	\$ 10,249.83	\$16,600.97	\$ 26,850.80	\$ 27,201.71	\$ 221,887.98
Foreign Missions	93,424.03	2,545.46	95,969.49	87,580.30	857,748.15
FWBBC	12,768.13	2,545.46	15,313.59	7,957.12	125,074.85
Home Missions	39,750.25	1,992.11	41,742.36	27,043.05	363,879.73
Retirement & Insurance	860.76	1,549.44	2,410.20	953.99	20,132.57
Master's Men	2,028.40	1,549.44	3,577.84	1,628.75	28,885.88
Commission for Theological Integrity	95.21	55.33	150.54	104.21	1,337.22
FWB Foundation	827.86	664.05	1,491.91	1,158.52	12,391.96
Historical Commission	84.76	55.33	140.09	91.73	1,248.99
Music Commission	84.76	55.33	140.09	80.34	1,134.57
Radio & TV Commission	95.20	55.33	150.53	90.35	1,218.15
Hillsdale FWB College	1,386.07	.00	1,386.07	1,162.07	10,444.36
Other	1,550.70	.00	1,550.70	6,740.55	19,011.52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$163,205.96</b>	<b>\$27,668.25</b>	<b>\$190,874.21</b>	<b>\$161,792.69</b>	<b>\$1,664,395.93</b>



Members of **Leadington FWB Church** in **Leadington, MO**, celebrated their 74th year of service to the community on August 27. Former pastor **Earl Ames** preached during the morning service. **Vernon Long** pastors.

**Walter and Janet Baxley** led the October Couples and Singles Retreat at FDR State Park in Georgia. The retreat was sponsored by **First FWB Church in Thomaston**. **Jeff Lunsford** pastors.

Interim pastor **Clarence Burton** reported nine conversions and nine baptisms at **Republic FWB Church in Republic, MO**. **Burton** ended his pastoral duties in late August and handed the pulpit over to new pastor **Don Anderson**.

**Columbia FWB Church in Columbia, MO**, reports four conversions and three rededications. **Gary Junge** pastors.

Officials suspect that an April 12 fire that destroyed **Liberty FWB Church in Thayer, MO**, was deliberately set by an arsonist. The rural congregation continues to gather for worship in a local community building. Pastor **J. W. King** and members are determined to rebuild. Church insurance coverage was not sufficient to cover new construction costs.

After 35 years as an ordained deacon at **Amherst FWB Church in Amherst, OH**, layman **Doug Harper** is stepping down because of age and health. Pastor **Derl Curry** and members honored Brother Harper in August for almost four decades of service. Harper served 33 years as church clerk, 31 years as trustee, 24 years as Sunday School superintendent and logged 22 years of perfect attendance. He also sang bass 30 years in two quartets.

Eighty volunteers rode herd on 200 children at the nightly Kids Jamboree '95 sponsored by **Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN**. Co-director **Jean Sherrill**'s long hours of preparation paid off making the summer event the largest ever. **Rob Morgan** pastors.

There's good news from the August 7-11 Kids Jamboree at **First FWB Church in Norman, OK**, says minister of youth **Joey Wilson**. The church enrolled 108 children with 48 adult workers. The results—22 children came to know Christ. **Dean Stone**, executive director of the Children's

Pastors' Conference led the jamboree. **Joe Grizzle** pastors.

Three former pastors were on hand to help members of **Taft FWB Church in Taft, CA**, celebrate 45 years of service. Former pastors **Gene Shaw** (1955-1958), **Joey Wilson** (1985-1988) and **Edward Johns** (1988-1991) preached to 80 worshipers during homecoming activities. **Merle Guess** pastors.

**South Union FWB Church in Bakersfield, CA**, sponsored their first Sunday School Teachers and Administrators Conference this summer. Pastor **Eric Thompson** said that a number of pastors and laity attended.

Pastor **Tommie Street** reports 20 new members at **Pearce Chapel FWB Church in Smithville, MS**. The summer VBS averaged 101 in attendance with the children raising \$247 for Nebraska home missionary **Larry Collins**.

A group of nine young people from **First FWB Church in Pontiac, MI**, accompanied Pastor **David McGowan** to Tennessee in August for a tour of the National Offices, Randall House Publications and Free Will Baptist Bible College. As they returned home, the youngsters planned to stop in Louisville, KY, and help home missionary **Sandy Adams** canvas the area.

**Ohio minister Lucian Mounts** completed 32 years of gospel radio broadcasting. His program airs on station WIZE in Springfield.

Pastor **Craddock Frye** stays busy with new converts these days. He reports 17 salvation decisions at **McDermott FWB Church in McDermott, OH**.

Members of **Heartland Union FWB Church in Plain City, OH**, purchased four acres in July. **Dana Booth** pastors.

**Lone Grove FWB Church in Haywood, OK**, dedicated their new sanctuary August 13. Pastor **Arty Hearod** has led the church 24 years. Evangelist **Wade Jernigan** preached the dedication message.

**New Hope FWB Church in Ina, IL**, celebrated their centennial anniversary in June, according to Pastor **Raymond Capps**. They honored five people who had been members of the church for 50 or more years—**Nijel Fowler, Dot Drennan, Kenneth Jones, Dorothy Webb** and **La-**

**Verne Bernard**. The group displayed a "Name Quilt" which had been made in 1913 by ladies of the church to help pay for a new building. The celebration ended that evening with Pastor **Capps** baptizing two men.

The June VBS at **Woodland Chapel FWB Church in Ironton, OH**, set an attendance record with 154 people. Pastor **David Schug** reports six conversions.

Pastor **Roger Childers** baptized 12 converts at **Urbana FWB Church in Urbana, OH**. But he had to borrow the baptistry at **Woodstock FWB Church** for the first six. The last six were baptized in Mad River.

Attendance is back up to 65 at **Old Kyger FWB Church in Cheshire, OH**. That's great news, because a Mother's Day flood left 12 inches of water inside the church. Pastor **Robert Thompson** said that although the carpet and organ were ruined, members never missed a service.

They're debt free at **First FWB Church in Sulphur, OK**. The church paid off a \$125,000 loan 11 years early. **Brad Ransom** pastors.

Members of **Okemah FWB Church in Okemah, OK**, set aside the entire weekend to celebrate completion of a new wing consisting of a fellowship hall, nursery, office and pastor's study. Oklahoma executive secretary **Jack Richey** spoke Sunday morning. **Frank Young** pastors.

A truck stopped at the **Free Will Baptist Family Ministries in Greeneville, TN**. Staffers unloaded four new chests of drawers delivered by the local Heilig-Meyers store, as well as a full-size mattress and box springs. Executive Director **Roger Hood** gave a rousing thanks to the store manager, **Terry Copeland**. ■



## FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

### *Free Will Baptists Claim Their Land*

By Bert Tippet, Public Relations Director

"Claim The Land"

It has a nice ring to it, don't you think?

That's what FWBBC chose to call the drive to underwrite the purchase of 123 acres of property just northwest of Nashville. The National Association of Free Will Baptists, meeting July in Charlotte, North Carolina, endorsed relocating the college from its West End location to the new site in the Joelton area.

The first effort in that relocation is "Claim The Land." Roy Harris, Director of Stewardship Development, has mounted a drive to "sell" each acre for \$3,400. The money will underwrite the purchase of the land and help with other expenses necessary to prepare it for eventual use as the new campus.

Mr. Harris says:

*The campaign was not fully implemented until early 1995. We did not want to hurt our Christmas Fund Drive with money being shifted from the general operating fund of the college. We developed a strategy of paying for the land by the acre. We have been amazed at how God has touched so many hearts and impressed them to help us. Acres have been purchased by individuals, churches, local associations, and Free Will Baptist-owned businesses. Our first acre was purchased near the end of October 1994 by Reverend and Mrs. Wallace Malone, the parents of our President, Dr. Tom Malone.*

*When we went to the National Association in July, people had spoken for 56 acres of the land. As of this writing, we have 85 acres underwritten in cash or commitments! We have "sold" an acre about every two days since the National Convention—29 acres in less than two months! That leaves us with just 38 more acres to sell. Our goal is to have the land underwritten by May 31, 1996.*

*We need just a few more individuals, churches, local associations, and others.*

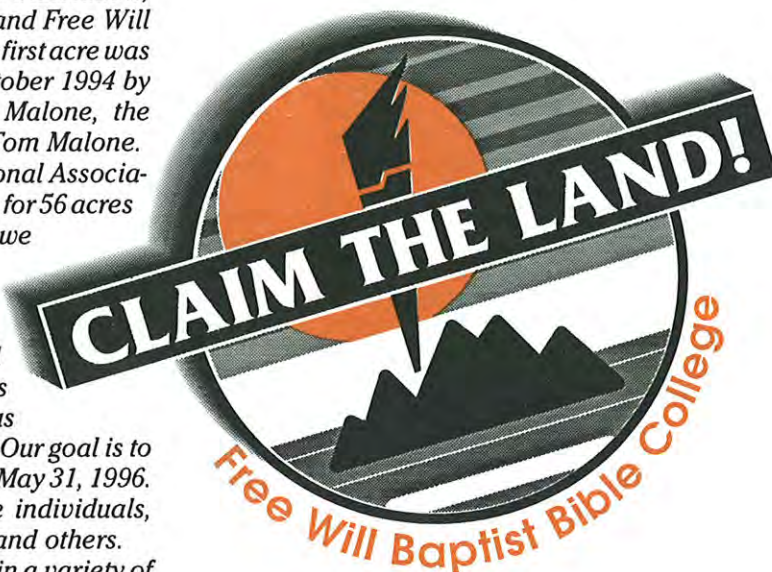
*The land is being paid for in a variety of ways. Some have paid the whole \$3,400 at once. Others are paying for their acre in installments, over a period of months. Some*

*have paid for theirs in two \$1,700-payments. We are working with folks to make it as convenient for them as possible.*

*The "Claim The Land" campaign has been a huge success because of the prayers and vision of God's people. This is the first step down the road to a new campus. God has been good, our folks have been faithful, and the college will continue to train our fine Christian young people to serve Christ and His Church.*

Mr. Harris presents a framed deed replica to accompany every acre underwritten. A map of the property is also given to each donor, designating the acre being "sold." If you would like to have more information, write or call for a free brochure. ■

*Claim The Land*  
Free Will Baptist Bible College  
3606 West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205  
615/383-1340, Ext. 2244







## THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION

### *May the Foundation Write You a Check?*

By William W. Evans

Yes, the Foundation would like to write you a check every month for the rest of your life. Sounds too good to be true? It isn't, but there is a catch. You thought so, didn't you?

#### *How does it work?*

Let me give you one of the possible ways we can deliver a check to your bank or mail box every month.

To begin such a program, you transfer cash or other assets to the Foundation for a gift annuity which guarantees you a fixed income for life. The amount of each payment is determined by the age(s) of the annuitant(s) when the annuity is funded. Once payments are determined, they remain fixed for the annuitant's lifetime.

#### *How many annuitants can benefit?*

You can name as many as two. This is common for married couples to ensure that both spouses enjoy the payments for life. Suppose Mr. and Mrs. Smith, age 65 and 60, want to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity with \$10,000. At their ages, the rate of return is 5.8% which means that they receive a monthly check of \$48.34, or annually \$580.00, as long as either of them live. Of that annual amount \$226.81 is received tax-free as a return of principal. They also receive an income tax deduction of \$3,743.08 for the year the annuity is funded.

#### *Why would anyone want to fund a gift annuity?*

**\*Fixed Income** — Payments are set for the rest of your life at the time of the gift.

**\*Payment Dates** — You choose to have the payments begin now or at a future time. A deferred payment annuity can be an excellent way to supplement your retirement income.

**\*Tax-free Payments** — A portion of each payment from an annuity is tax-free.

**\*Income Taxes Savings Now** — The person funding the annuity is entitled to an income deduction for the gift portion of the assets transferred.

**\*Guaranteed** — Your payments are guaranteed by all the assets of the Foundation. We are required by law to continue the payments throughout your lifetime.

**\*High Rates** — Your rate of payment is based on your age. Payments are very attractive compared to current interest rates.

#### *Why would the Foundation want to issue gift annuities?*

**\*Your gift helps ministries** — Following the death of the last annuitant, the remaining assets of the annuity are transferred to the Free Will Baptist agency of your choice.

**\*No Probate** — After your life, your gift is transferred to the agency or its account immediately, without delay of probate.

**\*Convenience** — A Charitable Gift Annuity is very simple to establish. You or your attorney can make an application or receive an obligation-free proposal by writing (P.O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011) or calling (615-731-6812) the Foundation.

**\*Commitment of Support** — We have the assurance of your commitment to support a portion of Free Will Baptist work. Helping with the supply of funds is our job.

May we help you with a check from a Gift Annuity? ■





## HOME MISSIONS

*My Thanks to Home Missions*

By Roy Thomas

As I retire December 31, 1995, and move to Greeley, Colorado, it is certainly with mixed emotions. I naturally am looking forward to a ministry among our isolated western churches, but I also am going to miss the staff, board and missionaries I have worked so closely with the past 25 years. I leave the Home Missions Department with a deep sense of gratitude for the ministry rendered to me and my family. I want to list some of the blessings I have enjoyed because of Home Missions:

The minutes of the Home Missions Board meetings reveal that in 1951 the board sent \$100 to Rev. Virgil Florence to assist with starting a Free Will Baptist church in Buhl, Idaho. The gift was small, but it was all the board could do in those early years. I was saved in the Buhl church, along with my sister and brothers. I am thankful for the part Home Missions had in bringing the message of Christ to Idaho.

The Home Missions Board honored me by sending me to Denver, Colorado, in 1960 as a home missionary. I had the privilege of starting the first Free Will Baptist church in that great state. I am thankful that Home Missions gave me that privilege.

I thank the Lord for the friends and supporters I met while doing itinerate to go to Denver. Home Missions made that possible.

I was elected to the Home Missions Board at the 1963 convention. I served two terms on the board, seven of those years as chairman. I am thankful to the dedicated men who served with me then, and for the committed and faithful men who have served since then.

I was invited by the board to serve as a staff member in the Home Missions office in 1970, where I have joyfully worked for 25 years. This gave me a part in starting more than 225 churches and preaching in 360 Old Time Camp Meetings sponsored by the department. I am so thankful and grateful for these experiences.

My service with Home Missions has given me the privilege of preaching in scores of our churches, and meeting hundreds of our pastors

and their families. I have been warmly received and graciously treated by all.

It has been a rare privilege to travel for Home Missions. The board has kept me in good cars, and in 25 years I have worn out 10 of them driving about 1.5 million miles. I have been honored to preach in every state except North Dakota and Hawaii.

I am thankful for the great men I have served with—our missionaries, board members, chaplains and men on staff. All have made great contributions to my life and taught me many things. I am thankful that Home Missions brought me in contact with all of them.

I thank the Home Missions Board for honoring me by sending my children as home missionaries. I thank them for using my wife as publications editor for 23 years.

I thank God for a denomination which had the vision to bring the Home Missions Board into existence. I am thankful for the board's vision for the urgent need to plant new churches in the cities of America.

My association with Home Missions has allowed me to become acquainted with some of the finest Christian laymen alive today. My life has been greatly enriched by knowing them.

Home Missions, Free Will Baptists and the Lord have all been good to me. I wanted to say thanks and express my appreciation for all the kindnesses to me the past 25 years.

I am retiring as the department's general director, but I am not retiring from preaching, serving the Lord or supporting Home Missions. I intend to help the new general director, Brother Trymon Messer, and the Home Missions Department in any way I can until the Lord takes me home. I hope you will do the same. ■



## OUR READERS COMMENT

### Keep It Coming

Please keep our *Contact* coming. We could not do without it.

Reverend W.T. Roberts  
Owasso, Oklahoma

### Long-time Reader

I enjoy *Contact* and read it from front to back. I always read Jack Williams' part first, though. I've known him since before he finished high school.

Mrs. Hazel Mann  
Warren, Arkansas

### Likes July Editorial

I just finished your editorial in the July issue, "Something About July." I believe this is by far the best you have written to date. Keep up the good work. Your writing speaks to my heart.

Reverend Don Worrell  
Director of Education  
Nashville Union Mission  
Nashville, Tennessee

### Apologize for July Editorial

I always enjoy *Briefcase* and your lively journalistic style. I am in agreement with the spirit of your July article, but I take serious issue with your statement about the American Civil War and the Nazi atrocities of WWII. To compare the American Civil War to the war against Nazism is incredible. It is not historically correct and frankly insulting to large numbers of Americans.

In the first place, the American Civil War was fought over states' rights. Lincoln himself declared that the war was to preserve the Union, not free the slaves.

In the second place, Southerners reacted as Northerners would have if the South had invaded the North—they fought!

In the third place, slavery in the South was as outdated as the Northern "sweat shops" where children were exploited. Slavery would have died out just as the sweat shops, because both had become an economic liability.

The vast majority of Southerners did not own slaves. They considered the Civil War "The War For Southern Independence" and called it that.

Your statements may have been "politically correct" in this age when most folks are pathetically ignorant of history. But what you said is unfair and insulting to hundreds of thousands of brave men in the greatest and most tragic of American wars.

If Southerners had sent five million blacks, Indians and Jews to gas chambers, I would say your statements had some merit. However, Southerners (black and white) fought to defend their country and independence.

If Southerners were morally incorrect to do this, then so were the 13 colonies in their war for independence from England—the Finns and Poles to free themselves from Russian rule—and the Croats and Bosnians to free themselves from Serb domination.

All agree now that slavery and the sweat shops were morally repugnant. And the whole nation was guilty, not just the South.

We're glad *all* Americans won the Civil War, but I am not ashamed of my Southern heritage nor that my forefathers fought bravely for a cause they (and most historians) believed just and honorable.

I believe you owe proud Southern patriots an apology, but I realize this too would not be politically correct. The next time you write about history, remember you have an old friend in Maine that has had a life-time love affair with history. I will call your hand on it if you insult those honorable ancestors of mine that fought under the Stars and Bars.

Reverend James A. Pittman, III  
Pastor  
Linneus Free Will Baptist Church  
Houlton, Maine

### Come Over and Help Us

We enjoyed "No Perfect Fathers" in the June issue. Give us more of these, please.

There are not very many Free Will Baptist churches to be found where we are. There are only nine churches in the state of Kansas, some of them 300 miles away.

I have been praying that more Free Will Baptist churches could be established in the northern half of the USA. Churches are few and far between after you leave the northern Oklahoma border.

I am almost 73 years old. I moved to Kansas last October to try to bring a church back that was down to five people besides my wife and me. We read about new mission churches starting in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee and other states which is good. But what about all the states that don't have the gospel preached to them by Free Will Baptists?

My prayer is that some of our younger people will get a vision like the Apostle Paul got in Acts 16:9-10. The cry is "come over and help us." No, I'm not quitting because of my age. I plan to pastor and preach as long as God gives me good health, and as long as some church needs me. I sincerely hope that someone will see these few words and get a burden for the highways and the by-ways and come our way.

Reverend Robert Spencer, Pastor  
First Free Will Baptist Church  
Wellington, Kansas

## Directory Update

### GEORGIA

Gene Cross to First Church, Dublin from Lower Corinth, Oak Park  
Gene Gilbert to Travelers Rest Church, Newton

### ILLINOIS

Larry Monday to First Church, Decatur from Liberty Church, Vernon, AL

### MICHIGAN

E. David Mingus to Tecumseh Church, Tecumseh

### NORTH CAROLINA

Rauben Cason to Canton Church, Canton from Sardis Church, Eufala, AL  
Henry Potter to Calvary Church, Jacksonville from Lubbock Church, Lubbock, TX

### TEXAS

Will Harmon to Collin Creek Church, Plano from Oak Park Church, Pine Bluff, AR  
Louis Nettleton to Western Hills Church, Fort Worth  
Lynn Wood to Fellowship Church, Bryan

### OTHER PERSONNEL

Joey Wilson to First Church, Norman, OK, as youth and children's pastor  
Jeff Davis to First Church, Owensboro, KY, as associate pastor from Cornerstone Christian School, Cannelton, IN, as principal  
Don Myers to Kirby Church, Kirby, MI, as associate pastor from National Youth Conference, Nashville, TN, as coordinator ■





Robert E. Picirilli

## The First Commandment

**I** am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Exod. 20:1,2; cf. Deut. 5:6,7).

The law of God reveals Him, and the first commandment sets the tone for all the rest.

*God is personal.* Note the personal pronouns "I" and "me," complemented by personal action: "I brought."

*God can be known by us in a personal relationship,* implied when He says, "I am the Lord thy God." So we are personal too, in God's image, having the capacity to know Him.

*God is the one and only God.* He affirms "I am the Lord." He prohibits us from adopting any other god.

*God is Redeemer,* and this serves both as a basis for a covenant relationship with Him and as the foundation for the giving of His law: "I have brought you out of bondage"—as true for us as for ancient Israel. Just as we look back to the cross as the crisis redemptive event, so Israel looked back to deliverance from Egypt.

Why should we keep His law? Not

as a means of salvation, to be sure, for only the regenerate can keep His law—and a feeble keeping at that. We keep His law because of who He is. He is God and we are not. As God, He has the right to run our lives.

And we keep His law because of what He has done. He has redeemed us from bondage to sin, to its penalty and to its enslavement. In that redemption He established a covenant relationship with us, declaring Himself our God and us His people.

So what does it mean, then, to keep this first commandment? "Have no other gods before me" means to have no other gods in His presence, to have no other gods but Him. That means, first, to have *Him* as God, to make the God of the Bible, the Father of Jesus Christ, God of our lives. It means to settle the question who is going to rule us, and to settle it truthfully given that God Almighty is the only true God.

We were created to be dependent on God. Augustine said He made us for Himself and we are restless until we find ourselves in a right relationship with Him. The self-reliance taught

to us by the spirit of this age is wicked. The willful ignoring of God that we prefer by nature is serious sin, a clear demonstration of our depravity.

And if we have Him as God, then we will honor Him. Honor Him with the reverence and seriousness God deserves. Honor Him with worship, recognizing that He alone is entitled to worship. Honor Him with obedience; it is of the very nature of God to be obeyed. Any disobedience is a violation of the first commandment.

We speak all too glibly about being in the Kingdom of God. In God's Kingdom He is King, and kings rule. Being in His kingdom means obeying His laws. In other words, we make God our master and His law our delight, or else we haven't made Him our God.

Our problem is that we want to be our own gods. Our nature cries out for this independence, and our age confirms us in the desire. But our only hope is to stop trying to play God, to stop usurping the right that belongs only to Him and let Him have His throne. We can only do that when we submit to His Son Jesus as our Savior and Lord. ■

## Coming Next Month . . .

- ☐ When God Wore Shoes
- ☐ Yesterday's Christmas
- ☐ The Days Were Accomplished
- ☐ 1995 Contact Index



## Carpe Diem: Seize the Day

By Tony Campolo

(Dallas: Word Publishing, 1995, 234 pp., paperback, \$10.99)



Thomas Marberry

**T**ony Campolo is a Christian who teaches sociology at Eastern College in St. David's, Pennsylvania. He is a popular Christian speaker and the author of numerous best-selling books. He is one Christian writer who always upsets people's apple carts and confronts them with the realities of being a follower of Christ in the modern world.

The Latin proverb *carpe diem* (seize the day) provides the title for this work. The author's basic assumption is that many modern Christians are simply living. They get up, go to work, go home and go to church, but there is little real meaning in any of it. There is little passion or zest for living.

Campolo endorses the view of Soren Kierkegaard who wrote, "This age will die, not from sin, but from lack of passion."

According to this author, apathy is a serious problem for many believers

today, and it extends even into their relationship with God. For too many Christians, worship is "... some kind of duty we ought to render to God. It becomes one of those things we are supposed to do on the Sabbath to keep it holy."

Campolo argues that Christians must learn to dream again. They must learn to dream of the great things that God can do through them.

It is true that sometimes those dreams will be crushed by the harsh realities of life, but they must be dreamed nevertheless. Too many things that could be done for God simply don't get done because Christians are afraid to dream.

He devotes three insightful chapters to the subject of marriage. He notes that many Christian marriages are dead or dying, and they are not dying because of immorality but because of a lack of passion. Christian husbands

and wives must seek to recover the love they may have lost. Campolo offers a number of valuable suggestions and recommends programs which have been proven to work.

The author addresses a number of other issues which contemporary Christians face such as stress, tension, depression, unhappiness on the job and more.

He notes that these are complex problems to which there are no easy answers, but he suggests approaches which individuals and companies can take to restore meaning, joy, and purpose to the workplace.

This is an insightful and interesting little book. It reminds us that life is to be lived, that the Christian life is a life of joy and purpose, and that work ought to be more than just a paycheck.

I didn't always agree with the author, but I profited from reading his work. You will too. ■

**November 19, 1995**  
is the  
**Benjamin Randall Offering**  
for  
**Home Missions Sunday**



## RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY NEWS

### "Jesus" Film Translators Brave Ebola Virus

KINSHASA, Zaire (EP)—Translators of the "Jesus" film, a feature-length film depicting Christ's life, worked for two weeks this summer in the ebola-stricken country of Zaire to complete three new movie translations.

Shortly before the four Americans were scheduled to leave for Zaire, where they would record translations in Mashi, Zaire and Swahili, the ebola virus outbreak became news in the U.S.

But despite the risks involved, the team decided to make the trip. They finished the project in two weeks.

"Our desire to go was greater than the risks involved," explained Mark Austin, African language producer for the Jesus Film Project.

The team faced many challenges, Austin noted. Military personnel seeking bribes often threaten non-nationals. Also, health officials report the continued presence of cholera due to contaminated water supplies.

As of mid-August, the "Jesus" film had already been translated into 327 languages since its debut in 1979. It's the world's most translat-

ed film and has been viewed by more than 711 million people, according to Campus Crusade for Christ, the sponsoring organization for the film. "Jesus" was shown 331 times in Zaire alone last year.

Eventually, the Jesus Film Project hopes to have 1,160 language versions of the film. That will allow 99.5 percent of the world's population to hear the gospel in their own language, Campus Crusade said.

The studio that does post-production work on the film translations completes a new translation of "Jesus" every 10 days. Copies of the films are then sent to national churches and missionaries throughout the world where they are used to present the gospel.

### McDonald's Logo More Recognizable than Cross

LONDON, England (EP)—The McDonald's logo—an arched M—and the shell used by an international petroleum company ranked higher in recognizability than the Christian cross, according to a survey of 7,000 people in six countries.

The survey, headed by Sponsorship Research International, a London firm specializing in sports marketing, involved specialists from throughout the world in Australia, Germany, India, Japan, Great Britain and the United States. Participants were shown nine well-known logos and asked to identify them.

The survey found that the five linked rings of the Olympic movement was the most recognizable symbol in the survey. Of the 7,000 people surveyed, 92 percent identified the Olympic symbol correctly. Logos for Shell and McDonald's were each recognized by 88 percent of those surveyed, while the cross was identified by only 54 percent of survey participants.

Christopher Mayfield, the Anglican Bishop of Manchester, told the *Daily Mail* newspaper in London, "The Olympic movement, Shell and McDonald's have a worldwide vision, so they are to be congratulated on getting their message across to the world. Christianity also has a worldwide vision, but we have not been so successful in communicating the faith, and we have got to do better."

### Doctor Convicted of Murdering Abortion Patient

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—New York abortionist David Benjamin was convicted of second-degree murder for the July 1993 death of Honduran immigrant Guadalupe Negron, who bled to death following an abortion at Benjamin's clinic in Queens.

A state jury found that 58-year-old Benjamin had shown a "depraved indifference to human life" in his June 1993 treatment of Negron.

The prosecution said that Benjamin knew

the woman's unborn child was 20 weeks old when he attempted an abortion, and that the woman should have been referred to a hospital. Instead, Benjamin performed the procedure, punctured Negron's uterus and cervix, then left her to bleed to death in a recovery room while he went on to perform another abortion. Benjamin reportedly also lied to two paramedics who arrived after his botched attempt to revive the woman.

Benjamin's license to practice medicine had been revoked the previous month for "gross incompetence and negligence" in five previous cases, three of which involved ripped uteruses. However, the State Administrative Board of Review allowed him to practice while he appealed the decision.

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) praised the decision. "Dr. Benjamin deserved to be convicted of murder for what he did to this woman," said NRLC spokeswoman Michele Arocha Allen. "Unfortunately, in too many cases women are treated in a substandard manner when they seek what are touted as 'safe, legal abortions.'"

### Persecution Intensifies in Northern India

DELHI, India (EP)—Open persecution of Christians is on the rise in Northern India, according to Lance Thollander, director of Christian Aid Mission's India Division. India is a secular state that grants freedom of religion, but there has been strong pressure from Hindu militants against proselytization.

Thollander said that he recently received several reports from Christians of hostile action being taken against them. "They [the reports] are especially noteworthy since India proclaims itself to be the world's largest democracy," he stated.

Reports of churches being burned to the ground and Christians being arrested are frequent, the ministry said. Thomas Mathews, a church leader in India, reported that three of the group's churches in Orissa state were burned. One of the churches was rebuilt, only to be burned down again.

A large Christian meeting, sponsored by the Kashmir Evangelical Fellowship, was to be held in Badapada, Orissa, late last March. But authorities dispersed the crowd with clubs and arrested 25 leaders and speakers. Those who were arrested were released April 4.

Christians have been attacked in the "generally more friendly South," the Mission said. A church of the Shiloh Evangelistic Mission burned to the ground near Madras last January. The leader of the ministry attributes the fire to "Hindu Zealots." The church cannot rebuild on the site because of zoning laws. ■

## Journalism Scholarships

Each year the Evangelical Press Association awards several scholarships to deserving students. We are now taking applications for the 1996/97 year.

Awards are made to undergraduates in their second or third year who are planning on a career in print journalism.

Completed applications must be received by March 1, 1996.

 **EVANGELICAL**  
PRESS ASSOCIATION



## The Singing Landlord

**T**he word on landlords is that they turn a deaf ear to renters when something breaks or leaks. They're hard-hearted. They disappear five minutes after you pay the rent only to resurface 30 days later with outstretched hands.

That may be true of some landlords, but not all of them. Let me tell you about a landlord who was the answer to a renter's prayer.

**The House.** Two years after we relocated to Nashville, my family and I were renting a townhouse apartment eight miles from the national offices. The rent was too high, and it escalated \$50 per month after the first year. When notification came about a second rent increase, we knew we had to move. But we had nowhere to go.

We prayed and waited. Uneasily. Then, a few days later, the strangest thing happened. A man stopped by the office, said he had a house for rent and wondered if we were interested. He named a price and asked if I thought it was too much.

I almost hugged him! The rent was \$125 less per month than we were paying. You think what you will; I believe God sent him our way. That began my 15-year handshake agreement with the best landlord in Tennessee.

**The Attitude.** The rent never increased, not once in 15 years. When the hot water heater quit one morning, the landlord replaced it by noon. When he discovered that I had no lawn mower, he gave me his. He learned that we had no garbage cans, so he bought us two. When a speeding car demolished the mailbox, he installed a new one the next day.

Early one spring on a Saturday, we opened the front door and saw someone washing the storm windows. Yep, it was Mr. and Mrs. Landlord. He also cleaned the gutters while he was on

the ladder near the roof.

He was a renter's dream. And what did we do with the money we saved on rent? We made tuition payments putting two dark-haired kids through Free Will Baptist Bible College. Our children should have thanked the landlord during their senior testimonials.

**The Sermon.** Just so you'll know, I met the landlord in 1961 during my freshman year at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He preached a sermon in the fall missionary conference that probably had more direct influence on my life than any other one sermon I've ever heard.

He spoke from Numbers 32:6, "... Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?" Stirred my soul to the boiling point, he did. I almost had a runaway. It was all I could do to stay in school. I wanted to leave with him that day and go out West where folks really needed a gospel witness.

Dozens of times over the years, the Lord reminded me of that fiery sermon. The power in that message burned so strong that eight years later it launched me westward to California. I felt that I was fulfilling my Numbers 32:6 when we stopped in the San Joaquin Valley that hot July day to unload the U-Haul trailer.

**The Music.** You'll never guess who showed up at the California State Association one Thursday night. The landlord and his family. They were asked to sing on the spur of the moment. They sang the stars down with a toe-tappin' Stamps-Baxter gospel song.

As I recall, we California folks about broke the "Amen" meter that night. The landlord's pretty wife played the piano like a piano ought to be played. Those two little kids of theirs jumped on every harmony note they could find. They were just what our state association needed.



Jack Williams

**The Example.** By now you've guessed that the landlord who preached that 1961 missionary sermon and sang the lights out in California is Roy Thomas, the man who retired as general director of the Home Missions Department in September.

For 18 years, Roy worked across the hall from me. I learned that up-close-and-personal he's exactly what he appeared to be from a distance. A preacher. A Free Will Baptist. A brother. A friend to ride the river with.

**The Future.** We've closed the book on Roy Thomas as general director of the Home Missions Department. He finished his 40-year journey as point man for home missions. He's still a Free Will Baptist. Still a preacher. Still a friend.

Now Roy sets up shop in the Colorado mountains. There's a new house waiting for him and his favorite piano player. He's free again to be a preacher and encourager. No more wrestling with departmental budgets, travel schedules and denominational reports.

He earned that freedom through faithfulness in tough times. There's plenty to do, and he will find his place in the wide harvest field. They still need the gospel out West. That's what Roy does best.

**The Gift.** Did I mention the last Christmas gift that Roy gave me? He stepped into my office just like he'd done 15 years earlier. He came as my landlord, but this time he did not want the rent check. He'd decided to sell the house that he'd kept repaired and I'd kept rented for so long.

"Jack, the house is yours if you want it," he said. I did. Then he helped arrange financing and agreed to use my real estate agent. What a landlord!

Thanks, Roy. I'll see you on down the trail. ■



**CONTACT**

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Second class postage paid at Antioch, Tennessee, and additional offices.



## **November is Home Missions Month**

*November 19 is  
Home Missions Sunday*

This special emphasis is part of the cooperative effort  
adopted by the National Association of Free Will Baptists.  
Every church is urged to give a special

### **Benjamin Randall Offering**

for National Home Missions General Fund.

Your gifts and prayers help build churches in the North American continent and U.S.A. owned islands.  
Everyone is asked to participate in this gigantic effort to raise \$200,000 for National Home Missions.

*Free materials to promote Home Missions Sunday may be obtained from:*

**National Home Missions Department**

**P. O. Box 5002**

**Antioch, TN 37011-5002**